

FIESTA BOWL PREVIEW ISSUE

Huskers Illustrated

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Volume 16, No. 1

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Of Another National Title**

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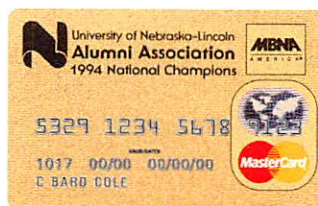
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C O N T E N T S

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F E A T U R E S

12 Rarefied Heir

Tommie Frazier has led Nebraska to a possible repeat national championship and a chance to join the elite eight of college football history.

By Mike Babcock

24 Fiesta Funk

The Huskers will battle history as well as Florida in the Fiesta Bowl, where NU is 0-4.

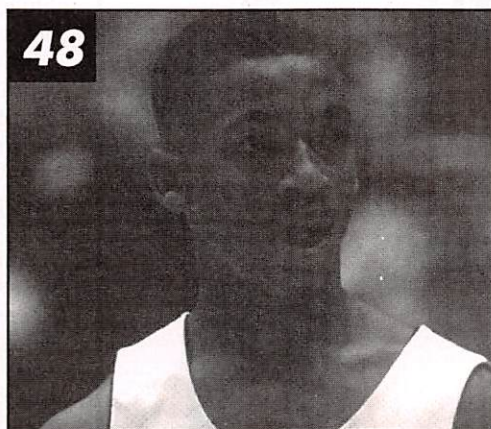
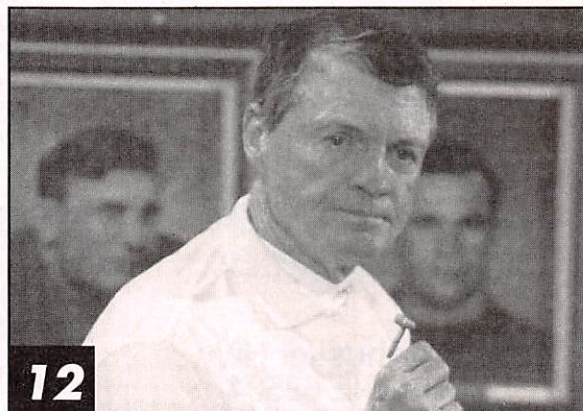
32 Sudden Impact

It took less than a year for junior Terrell Farley to dominate the team defensive statistics and earn the Big Eight Defensive Newcomer and Player of the Year awards.

48 Point Of Attack

Nebraska has found an offensive rhythm with freshman point guard Tyronn Lue running the show.

By Mike Babcock

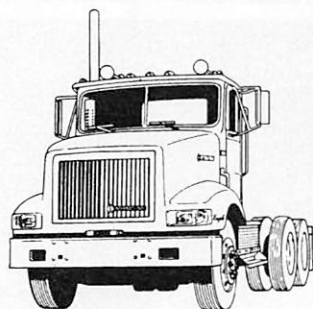
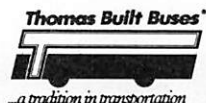


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Dear *Huskers Illustrated* readers:

Please help! I'm a huge Nebraska fan who lives in Alabama. I'm interested in buying, trading, etc. old ticket stubs, programs, VHS tapes and other items from regular-season and bowl games.

The national championship years of 1970, '71 and '95 are of special interest, as is the 1971 "Game of the Century." If anyone can provide help or refer me to another source, I would be extremely grateful.

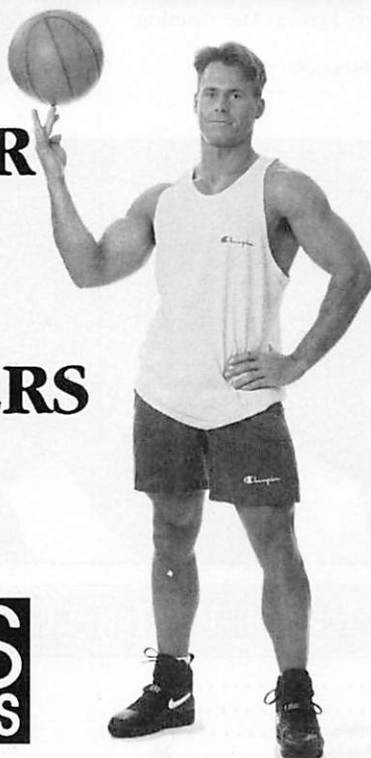
Thanks also to *Huskers Illustrated* for keeping us informed with your quality stories. I look forward to each issue. Go Big Red!

Sincerely,

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I would like to add a few comments to those that were made about Herbie Husker. I am glad to see that he has been revived. I sure would hate to see a head-dress made of corn adopted in his place.

Since I grew up on a farm in Nebraska, I know something about ears of corn. One of my chores at listing time was helping prepare seed corn. We used a special tool to "butt and tip" the ears so we had better seed.

I am still a loyal Nebraska football fan, so I watch every game I can, either on pay-per-view or on Tom Osborne's show. It really bothers me to see fans wearing ears-of-corn head-dresses. The TV cameras seem to show them every time. It reminds me of only one name that I'm sure we don't want to promote: Butt-head.

Loren F. Hoschouer
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Every year it seems like we don't get any respect. We won a national championship, and now that we're defending it, people are crying. It's

hard enough to repeat, let alone as convincingly as the Huskers are doing. So quit crying!

Roger Hainseworth
Pittsburgh, Pa.

A lot of the attention seems to be focused on the Nebraska offense as it usually is. But it's about time people start to take notice of the job the Black Shirts are doing. Sure in the past the defense was mostly suspect, but in the last few years this has become an entertaining group to watch work.

I have found myself jumping out of my seat more when I see Grant Wistrom or Jared Tomich start making their way around offensive tackles. And when these guys and others make contact, it's better than a 60-yard fullback trap play up the middle. Give the D some respect people.

Pauly Kamisole
St. Louis, Mo.

Please send your comments and questions to **Letters**, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length.

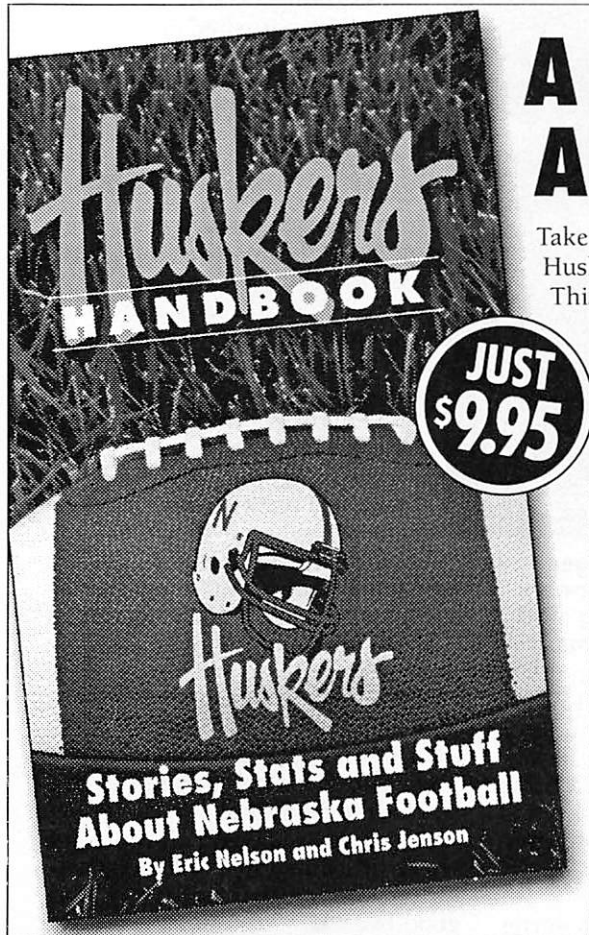
- 1: How many years did John Melton serve as a Nebraska assistant, and what position did he coach?
- 2: Which school almost hired away assistant coach Ron Brown after the 1993 season?
- 3: Who was coach Tom Osborne's first I-back?
- 4: What was the longest scoring run ever by a Nebraska offensive lineman?
- 5: What is the greatest number of points allowed by a Nebraska defense in a season?

Husker Trivia

Answers to last week's questions (Nov. 24 issue)

1: Perhaps the most surprising loss was a 12-0 defeat to Kansas State in 1968. The Wildcats had lost 14 straight conference games before they shut out the Huskers. 2: Dave Humm set the record for most pass attempts in 1972 against Iowa State, throwing 42 times. 3: Mike Rozier's 929 yards in four games in 1983 broke Marcus Allen's record. Allen had 926 yards in 1981 at USC. 4: Frosty Anderson set the Nebraska record for touchdown receptions with three, against Minnesota in 1973, Tom Osborne's first season as head coach. 5: Tommie Frazier was the Big Eight Freshman of the Year in 1992 after rushing for seven touchdowns and throwing 10 TD passes.

Each week we provide five questions from Lowell Greunke's trivia book "Husker Trivia." You have a week to mull over the answers before we print them. If you'd like a copy of "Husker Trivia," send a check for \$13.95 to: Husker Trivia, P.O. Box 44142, Omaha, NE, 68144



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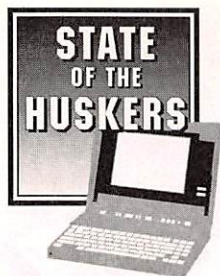
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Not Hard To Say Good-Bye

As the Oklahoma-Nebraska series became more lopsided, the challenges of Big Eight play began to fade

By MIKE BABCOCK

It was the end of an era. The final line read: Nebraska 37, Oklahoma 0.

There was no suspense and little drama, considering the No. 1-ranked Cornhuskers were 33-point favorites to complete an 11-0 regular season at Oklahoma's expense.

If tradition had held, if the teams had a sense of historical propriety, the game's outcome would have remained in doubt until the closing seconds. That's how the Nebraska-Oklahoma football rivalry will be remembered, even though the victory was the Cornhuskers' fifth in a row against Oklahoma, and seventh out of the two schools' last eight meetings.

The Sooners have fallen on hard times since Barry Switzer departed. No doubt about that.

Howard Schnellenberger couldn't provide the quick-fix he promised when he arrived from Louisville to replace Gary Gibbs this season.

Even so, in the not-too-distant future, old-timers will recall that every Nebraska-Oklahoma game had a cardiac finish.

That's why it's easy to forget some suggested the Nebraska-Oklahoma series might be preserved at the time (less than two years ago) when the final chapter on Big Eight football began.

But the rivalry, which dates to 1912 (and continuously since 1928) was doomed from the beginning. That should be obvious by now. Nebraska and Oklahoma were torn asunder by a geographic imperative, north and south, and the economic necessity on which the Big 12 Conference was formed.

They'll still play each other next season and the season after that. They would play twice in those years, if they win their respective divisions in the new conference.

The Big 12 athletic directors voted 11-1 in favor of a football championship game, to be held for the first time in St. Louis early December of

1996.

Nebraska dissented. But an annual conference football playoff would produce a reported \$550,000 to \$575,000 for each Big 12 school (not just the participants).

And, like it or not money is the primary reason the Big 12 was established.

So Nebraska and Oklahoma could meet in the conference championship game in 1996 and 1997 after playing interdivisional games during the regular season.

And they could play in the Big 12 title game in 1998 and 1999, which are the first seasons in which they are not scheduled for interdivisional games.

Bob Berry



Howard Schnellenberger couldn't help bail the Sooners out of a five game losing skid to Tom Osborne's teams.

The Cornhuskers will continue to play Colorado, Kansas State, Kansas, Missouri and Iowa State annually. Every two years, however, Texas, Texas A&M and Oklahoma State will replace Texas Tech, Baylor and Oklahoma as Nebraska's interdivisional opponents. It won't be the same.

The Nebraska-Oklahoma series

defined the Big Eight, which was formed in the spring of 1957 with the addition of Oklahoma State.

The Cowboys didn't become eligible to compete for the conference football championship until 1960, however. Since then, Nebraska and Oklahoma have won or shared all but four of the conference football titles.

Missouri was the Big Eight champion in 1960. Colorado won the league title in 1961, '89 and '90.

The Nebraska-Oklahoma game showcased Big Eight football.

Typically, it was played around (or on) Thanksgiving for a national television audience.

The Cornhuskers and Sooners put on one of college football's greatest displays, "Game of the Century" at Norman, on Thanksgiving Day of 1971. Both teams distinguished themselves that day. Oklahoma simply ran out of time, in losing 35-31.

Nebraska finished No. 1 in the final Associated Press national rankings. Oklahoma finished No. 2. And Colorado finished No. 3. No conference has had such a season since. It was the Big Eight's finest football hour.

The Big Eight has produced seven football national champions, with Nebraska in position to win an eighth.

It would be a fitting conclusion to the Big Eight era.

A victory in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl could certify this year's team as one of the best ever.

Nebraska, which has won an amazing 36 consecutive regular-season games, will be playing for the national title for the third season in a row.

The Cornhusker seniors have had "a great run," coach Tom Osborne said before the Oklahoma game. Their run has also been the stretch run for the Big Eight.

As Tennessee Williams once wrote, it's time for the Big Eight to, "Blow out your candles. And so good-bye." ■

The Bowl Alliance worked, thanks to Michigan. For the 11th time in college football history, the No. 1-ranked team in the Associated Press poll will play the No. 2 team in a bowl game.

Because of Michigan's upset of previously undefeated, untied and No. 2-ranked Ohio State, the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl will be host to a national championship game. There will be no national championship debate on the morning of Jan. 3, 1996. The issue will be resolved at Sun Devil Stadium.

Nebraska goes into the game ranked No. 1, of course, and Florida is No. 2. Both are undefeated and untied, something that has occurred in a post-season bowl game 14 times previously, including four times during the last 10 years. The most recent was the 1993 Sugar Bowl, in which Alabama defeated Miami 34-13.

For Cornhusker and Gator fans looking for signs, no pattern has emerged in the No. 1 versus No. 2 bowl matchups. The No. 1-ranked team has won five times and lost five times.

Nebraska has been involved in two such matchups, losing to No. 1-ranked Florida State 18-16 in the 1994 Orange Bowl game and defeating No. 2-ranked Alabama 38-6 in the 1972 Orange Bowl.

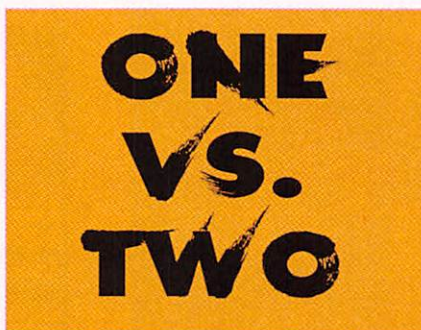
Penn State and Miami have each played in three such bowl games. They played each other in the 1987 Fiesta Bowl game, with Penn State winning the national championship battle of

undefeated and untied teams, 14-10. Nebraska and Alabama were both undefeated and untied when they played for the national title in the 1972 Orange Bowl game.

The No. 1 team has been defeated in a post-season bowl game 17 times since the Associated Press rankings were initiated in 1936. (The final AP poll has been conducted after the bowl games continuously since 1968.)

According to the NCAA College Football Records Book, here is what has happened in bowl games:

- No. 1 versus No. 2 (AP)
- 1963 Rose Bowl: No. 1 Southern Cal 42, No. 2 Wisconsin 37
 - 1964 Cotton Bowl: No. 1 Texas 28, No. 2 Navy 6
 - 1969 Rose Bowl: No. 1 Ohio State 27, No. 2 Southern Cal 16
 - 1972 Orange Bowl: No. 1 Nebraska 38, No. 2 Alabama 6
 - 1979 Sugar Bowl: No. 2 Alabama 14, No. 1 Penn State 7
 - 1983 Sugar Bowl: No. 2 Penn State 14, No. 1 Georgia 23
 - 1987 Fiesta Bowl: No. 2 Penn State 14, No. 1 Miami 10
 - 1988 Orange Bowl: No. 2 Miami 20, No. 1 Oklahoma 14
 - 1993 Sugar Bowl: No. 2 Alabama 34, No. 1 Miami 13
 - 1994 Orange Bowl: No. 1 Florida State 18, No. 2 Nebraska 16 ■



1995 ALL-BIG EIGHT FOOTBALL TEAM

Selections were unanimous Associated Press and Big Eight Coaches teams (the only two polls acknowledged by the Big Eight Conference) unless noted otherwise

FIRST TEAM SELECTIONS

OFFENSE

WR	Rae Carruth	Jr
TE	Stephen Alexander	So
OL	Eric Anderson (Coaches)	So
OL	Chris Naeole	Jr
OC	Bryan Stollenberg (Coaches)	Sr
OC	Aaron Graham (AP)	Sr
OL	Aaron Taylor (AP)	So
OL	Heath Irwin#	Sr
OL	Chris Banks#	Sr
OL	Chris Dishman (Coaches)	Jr
WR	Kevin Lockett	Jr
QB	Tommie Frazier	Sr
RB	Troy Davis	So
RB	Ahman Green# (Coaches)	Fr
RB	David Thompson#	Jr
PK	Neil Voskeritchian (Coaches)	Sr
PK	Jeremy Alexander (AP)	So
RET	R.W. McQuarters@	Fr

DEFENSE

DE	Grant Wistrom (Coaches)	So	Nebraska
DL	Kerry Hicks (Coaches)	Sr	Colorado
DL	Christian Peter	Sr	Nebraska
DL	Tim Colston	Sr	Kansas State
DE	Cedric Jones	Sr	Oklahoma
LB	Percell Gaskins (AP)	Sr	Kansas State
LB	Jared Tomich (AP)	Jr	Nebraska
LB	Terrell Farley (AP)	Jr	Nebraska
ILB	Tyrell Peters (Coaches)	Jr	Oklahoma
ILB	Matt Russell	Jr	Colorado
DB	Joe Gordon (AP)	Jr	Kansas State
DB	Dorian Brew	Sr	Kansas
DB	Tyrone Williams	Sr	Nebraska
DB	Chuck Marlowe (Coaches)	Sr	Kansas State
DB	Chris Canty	So	Kansas State
P	Greg Ivy	Sr	Oklahoma State

indicates a tie vote at that position in the Coaches poll
@ AP doesn't vote on returners

SECOND TEAM SELECTIONS

OFFENSE

WR	Mitch Running#	Sr
WR	Ashaundai Smith# (Coaches)	Sr
TE	Matt Lepsis (Coaches)	Jr
TE	Alonzo Mayes (AP)	So
OL	Tim Kohn	Jr
OL	Aaron Taylor (Coaches)	So
OC	Aaron Graham (Coaches)	Sr
OC	Bryan Stollenberg (AP)	Sr
OL	Chris Dishman (AP)	Jr
OL	Chris Oltmanns	Jr
OL	Rod Jones (AP)	Sr
WR	James Kidd# (Coaches)	Jr
WR	Phil Savoy (AP)	So
QB	Mark Williams (Coaches)	Sr
QB	Matt Miller (AP)	Sr
RB	June Henley (Coaches)	Jr
RB	Jerald Moore (AP)	Jr
RB	Ahman Green (AP)	Fr
PK	Jeremy Alexander# (Coaches)	So
PK	Lawson Vaughn# (Coaches)	Sr
PK	Neil Voskeritchian (AP)	Sr
RET	Reggie Baul# @	Sr
RET	Ashaundai Smith# @	Sr

DEFENSE

DE	Kerry Hicks (AP)	Sr	Colorado
DE	Keith Rodgers# (Coaches)	Sr	Kansas
DE	Dirk Ochs#	Sr	Kansas State
DL	Steve Martin	Sr	Missouri
DE	Jared Tomich# (Coaches)	Jr	Nebraska
DE	Greg Jones#	Jr	Colorado
LB	Keith Rodgers (AP)	Sr	Kansas
LB	Grant Wistrom (AP)	So	Nebraska
ILB	Jason Thoren	So	Kansas
ILB	Terrell Farley (Coaches)	Jr	Nebraska
ILB	Percell Gaskins (Coaches)	Sr	Kansas State
DB	DeMontie Cross (AP)	Jr	Missouri
DB	Chuck Marlowe (AP)	Sr	Kansas State
DB	Mike Minter (AP)	Jr	Nebraska
DB	Joe Gordon (Coaches)	Jr	Kansas State
DB	Tony Veland	Sr	Nebraska
P	Mike Minter	Jr	Nebraska
P	Darrin Simmons	Sr	Kansas

indicates a tie vote at that position in the Coaches poll
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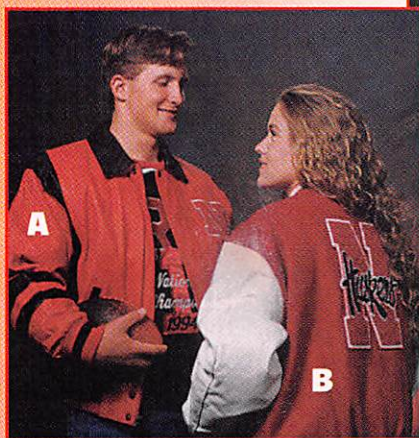
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Rarefied Heir

Tommie Frazier has led Nebraska to a possible repeat national championship and a chance to join the elite eight of college football history

Nebraska has had a remarkable run the last three football seasons. You'll get no argument there, just as you'll get little or no argument about the impetus for that run: Tommie Frazier. No less of an authority on the subject than Tom Osborne has said so.

"He's been the catalyst," Osborne said of Frazier after the Cornhuskers completed a third consecutive undefeated and untied regular season with a 37-0 victory against Oklahoma.

"In terms of doing the right thing at the right time, he ranks with the best we've had. He can take a hit, run and throw the ball. Put it all together and it would be hard to find one player who's had more impact on more games."

Nebraska's record in games Frazier has started is 32-3. He has rewritten the quarterbacks' section of the school record book, despite missing eight games because of a blood-clot problem last season.

Frazier has led Nebraska not only to a possible repeat national championship but also to the verge of greatness for college football's ages. With a victory in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl game on the night of Jan. 2, 1996, the Cornhuskers would join a select few in winning back-to-back national championships.

It is rarefied air they seek. The last program to breathe it was Alabama, which was voted Associated Press national titles in 1978 and 1979. The Crimson Tide also achieved that distinction in 1964 and 1965 (at Nebraska's expense that season, by the way). Oklahoma won back-to-back national titles in 1974 and 1975, as well as in 1955 and 1956. Notre Dame doubled up in 1946 and 1947, succeeding Army as a two-time national champion in 1944 and 1945.

Minnesota was the first to earn successive national championships following the institution of the Associated Press rankings in 1936. Bernie Bierman's Golden Gophers won titles in 1940 and 1941. And, of course, Nebraska won back-to-back titles under Bob Devaney in 1970 and 1971.

Committing those sets of two to memory shouldn't be difficult. There are only eight.

"We've had a great run," Osborne said in discussing Nebraska's 1995 senior class. "We've dodged a few bullets along the way, and we've been fortunate . . . that (good fortune) plays into it somewhere."

But as NBA Hall of Fame center Bill Russell once said: "Better to be good than lucky." And, on balance, the Cornhuskers have been good, very good, though perhaps not always the best.

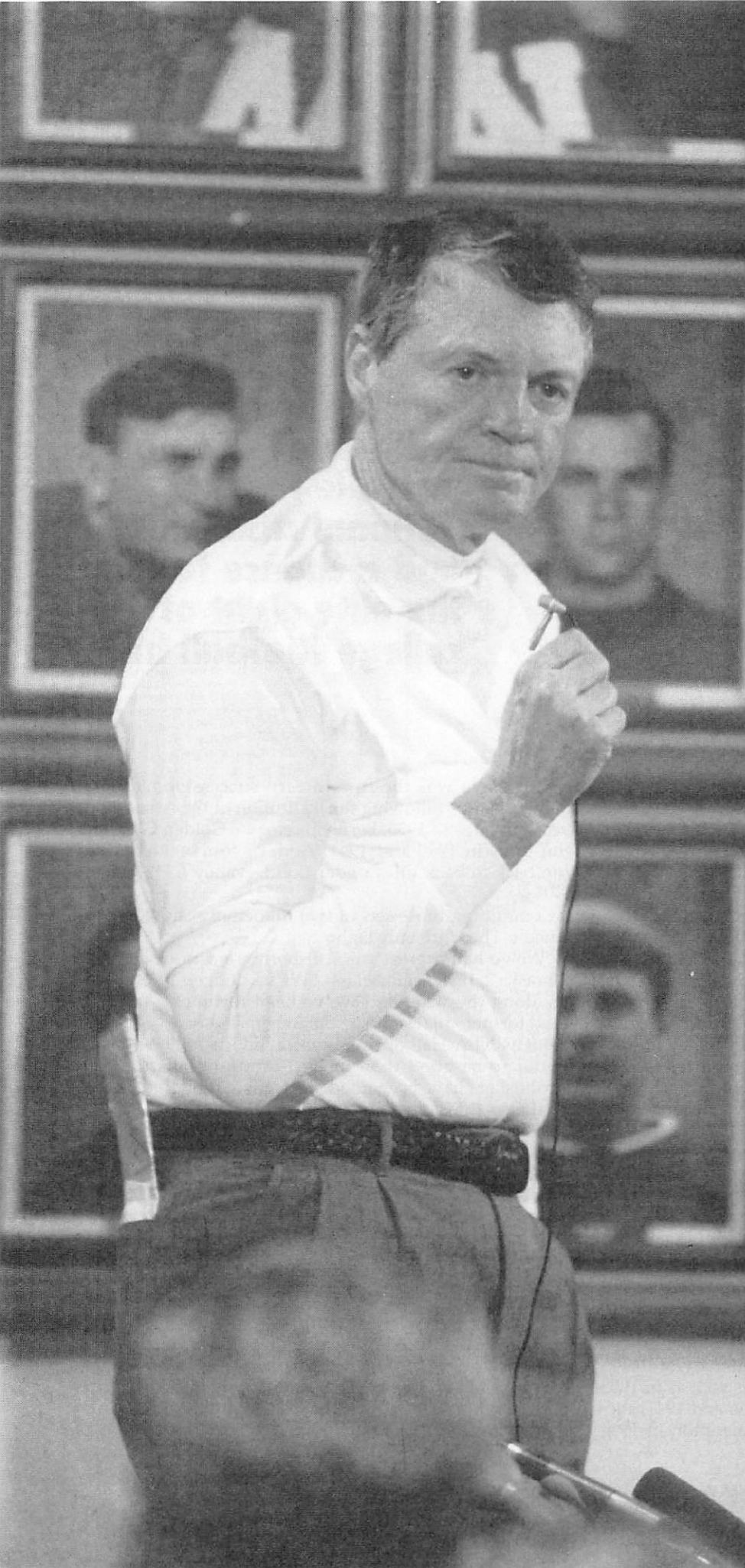
"Last year, I don't know that we were the most talented team in the league (Big Eight)," said Osborne, who has reached 230 victories in 23 seasons, faster than any of his predecessors, who are in the Hall of Fame.

"If you look at the NFL draft, you'd have to say Colorado was pretty talented (in 1994). This year, I don't know. Maybe we are. Two and three years ago, I don't think we were. But they've always found a way to get it done."

What this season's seniors have done is extraordinary. They have contributed to the winning of four consecutive conference titles outright. They have earned one national championship and have come within a missed field goal of winning another. They finished No. 3 in the final AP rankings for 1993.

They have won 35 games over three seasons, some-

By Mike BABCOCK



thing only Brigham Young and Toledo have done previously. With a victory in the Fiesta Bowl game, they would stand alone on that count. They have won 36 consecutive regular-season games and 23 consecutive conference games. And they have won 24 games in a row, tying the school record, which has survived for nearly a century.

Walter C. "Bummy" Booth's teams posted 24 consecutive victories from 1901 to 1904. The school record for consecutive games without defeat is 34, set by teams coached by E.O. "Jumbo" Stiehm and E.J. "Doc" Stewart from 1912 to 1916. That mark also could be in jeopardy because of the efforts of the 1995 Cornhuskers. Their immediate concern is one victory, however, in the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl.

Frazier is one of 22 seniors on this year's team. The others, in alphabetical order, are: Jacques Allen, Reggie Baul, Brook Berringer, Clinton Childs, Doug Colman, Phil Ellis, Mark Gilman, Aaron Graham, Luther Hardin, Jason Jenkins, Clester Johnson, Jeff Makovicka, Chris Norris, Brian Nunns, Steve Ott, Aaron Penland, Christian Peter, Darren Schmadeke, Steve Volin, Tony Veland and Tyrone Williams.

"This class shows that even without the big names we had last year, we can get the best from everybody and get it right when it comes to playing on the field," said Frazier, a unanimous choice as the Associated Press first-team All-Big Eight quarterback.

Nebraska's other first-team representatives on the all-conference offense were linemen: Graham, the center, and Aaron Taylor, a sophomore guard. Four Cornhuskers were AP first-team All-Big Eight on defense: tackle Christian Peter, cornerback Tyrone Williams and junior linebackers Jared Tomich and Terrell Farley.

Despite a few much-publicized problems off the field, "I think the character level (of this year's team) is among the very top we've had here," Osborne said. "Character — and I hate to wear that word out — had to play into it somewhere. I think they care very much about being a good football team.

"And they care very much about a lot of the right things. Christian

Despite a few much-publicized problems off the field, Tom Osborne feels the character level on this year's team is "among the very top we've had here."

Peter (for example) has become a tremendous leader and a fine person. I've been disappointed by some of the treatment he's received. He's been vilified, but he's a solid person. The seniors set the tone for everyone else. They wanted to be good, and they put the team above personal desires."

Devaney's teams in 1970 and 1971 established the modern standard by which success has been measured at Nebraska. Beginning with a 21-17 victory against Kansas in mid-October of 1969, the Cornhuskers went 32 games without defeat, the second-longest such streak in school history. The only blemish during that stretch was a 21-21 tie at Southern California in the second game of 1970.

With Frazier pushing the reset button, the standard has been amended. Some have even suggested the 1995 Nebraska team would rank among the best in history with a victory in the Fiesta Bowl game. That's extreme praise, of course, putting the Cornhuskers of the mid-1990s in a position to succeed Miami's teams of the 1980s.

From 1983, when they deprived Nebraska of a national championship, to 1992, the Hurricanes won

four national titles, finished second in the AP rankings twice and third twice. During those 10 seasons, Miami's combined record was 107-13-0 (.892).

Each decade has produced dominant programs. During the 1970s, they included Alabama, Oklahoma and Southern Cal. During the 1960s, it was Alabama. During the 1950s, Oklahoma fashioned its NCAA-record 47-game winning streak and earned three consensus national championships. And during the 1940s, Notre Dame enjoyed a run like no other under Coach Frank Leahy.

The Fighting Irish won Associated Press national championships in 1943, 1946, 1947 and 1949. They were No. 2 in the final rankings in 1948, and their combined record from 1941 through 1949 was 75-7-6 (.886). In the last four of those seasons, Notre Dame's record was 36-0-2.

It is in such company that Nebraska finds itself as it prepares to play a national championship bowl game for a third consecutive season. During a pre-Oklahoma game news conference, Graham, a Cornhusker co-captain, said the seniors expected no less of themselves.

After posing for a photograph at media day prior to the 1992 Orange Bowl game, said Graham, the red-shirts set goals of five Big Eight championships and two national championships. The 1991 team took care of the first of their five conference titles by sharing one with Colorado. The goals were brash. But that's the nature of young athletes.

"It wasn't a joke," Graham said. "We talked about it for a long time that day. We knew we had the talent, the class and the work ethic to do it. There are no slackers in this group. We're only one ring away from doing what we said we'd do."

Osborne acknowledged that resolve. "This year's team will be one I'll always remember," he said. "They have been a team in the true sense of the word. I appreciate their attitude and effort."

Every player, from the starters to the scout team, has contributed to the success. But the essential ingredient has been the influence of a talented quarterback from Palmetto, Fla., who was still in high school when those 1991 redshirts established their enthusiastic goals.

His name is Tommie Frazier. The Cornhuskers have rarely, if ever, seen his equal. ■



Great Fourth Quarter.

First National Bank of Omaha congratulates the coaches and players of the Nebraska Cornhusker football team on winning the Orange Bowl and the National Championship — proof positive that a good game plan pays off.



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MEMBER FDIC



By Mark Derowitsch

It took Florida eight days, but finally the Gators can concentrate on facing top-ranked Nebraska and playing for the coveted national championship. What stood in the Gators' way of playing for the title after they knocked off Florida State was Arkansas.

The Southeastern Conference championship game against the out-matched Razorbacks turned into a mere formality for the Gators. Shortly after Florida rolled to a 34-3 victory, the Gators were finally allowed to turn their attention to a showdown with Nebraska.

Nebraska and second-ranked Florida will square off in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2 in Tempe, Ariz. The first-year bowl alliance got its wish — the bowl will decide the national title.

While the Huskers had a relatively easy time getting to play for it all in Tempe, the Gators needed some late-season help to control their own destiny. During the final week of the season, then-No. 2 Ohio State lost to Michigan, giving Florida the chance to move up a spot in the poll and to guarantee a No. 1 vs. No. 2 matchup in the Fiesta.

Again, mission accomplished for the Gators. They dispatched Florida State 35-24 before whipping Arkansas in the Georgia

Florida is 21-3-1 with quarterback Danny Wuerffel at the helm.

Dome in Atlanta to set up a dream matchup.

Not that Florida didn't have some close calls while going 12-0 (including 9-0 against SEC opponents). The Gators struggled to a 28-10 victory over Mississippi at home in late September, then defeated Louisiana State the next week by the same score. They also got past Auburn, 49-38, on Oct. 14.

Still, Florida survived.

"I am so excited to be a part of this team," Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel said. "Sometimes we'll struggle a bit, but we always



Jay Metz/University of Florida

PRESS PICKS



• **Mike Babcock**, *Huskers Illustrated*: The offense will be the showcase of this game. Tommie Frazier will have too

much to throw at Florida. Danny Wuerffel will have his moments, but Nebraska will win its second straight national title with a win over Florida.

Nebraska 35, Florida 31.

• **Jim Rose**, *SportsDay Mid America*: Any two teams that could come through this year without a scratch shouldn't lack for confidence in a national title game. But, the Huskers are special. They, unlike the Gators, are used to big game pressure. How will Florida react in the fourth quarter of a tight ball game? Will their linebackers and ends have the confidence to make the correct read on one of Frazier's options? Florida's Lawrence Wright loves to say, "If you're not a Gator, then you're Gator bait!" But what he doesn't know is that Corn like this is too tough to swallow.

Nebraska 35, Florida 24.

• **Marty Cohen**, *Gator Bait: The Fun and Gun vs. The Steamroller Huskers*. It's going to be a great game for the nation and for the patrons of both schools. Florida has been on a magic carpet ride all season and its going to last one more time with Wuerffel leading the way. Both teams' offenses will take center stage. Both quarterbacks will put on a show, but Wuerffel will have one more ace up his sleeve and will find Chris Doering in the final seconds for a championship touchdown.

Florida 38, Nebraska 34.

• **Doug Looney**, *College football freelance writer*: This is a lock. This game Florida wins easily. Florida is a better team. Florida's offense is truly wonderful, and Florida has a lot more speed than Nebraska.

Florida 28, Nebraska 7.

hang in there as a team and find a way to win."

Florida is in position to win the national title under coach Steve Spurrier thanks to an explosive offense led by Wuerffel.

The Gators averaged 534.4 yards of offense a game, including 360.8 through the air. Florida outscored its opponents by more than 330 points and scored at least 40 seven times.

Wuerffel completed 25 of 40 passes for 443 yards and four touchdowns against Florida State. That was the fourth-best passing effort in Florida history.

Wuerffel is also used to winning. The Gators are 21-3-1 when Wuerffel is the starting quarterback. He has 75 career touchdown passes, becoming just the 14th quarterback in NCAA Division I history to throw for at least 70 scores.

Wuerffel's backup is junior Eric Kresser, who in one start this fall threw for a school-record 458 yards and six touchdowns against Northern Illinois.

The Gators' top receiver is senior Chris Doering, a 6-foot-4, 191 pounder who made 70 catches for 1,045 yards and 17 touchdowns this season.

Doering, a former walkon, became just the 13th player in NCAA Division I with more than 30 touchdown catches in his career.



K. Kochinsky (Hanks)/Chris Carroll (Campbell)



The Gator defense, led by nickel back Ben Hanks (11) and end Mark Campbell (67), has been stingy against the run this season allowing an average of 130.2 yards per game.

But Doering isn't Florida's lone threat. Sophomore Ike Hilliard had 57 receptions for 1,008 yards and 15 touchdowns in 11 games (nine of which he started).

Florida's reserve receivers have big numbers as well. Reidel Anthony, who backs up Doering in Florida's base set, had 24 receptions while Jacquez Green added 19 catches and five touchdowns.

Although the Gators are a passing team first, they do run the ball enough to keep defenses honest.

Sophomore tailback Elijah Williams led the Gators with 858 yards on the ground (an average of

78.0 per game) and seven touchdowns. Freshman Terry Jackson started five games at tailback and gained 780 yards and scored six times.

But Williams and Jackson do more than run the ball, though. Williams was fourth on the team in receiving with 22 catches for 277 yards while Jackson was next with 20 receptions for 188 yards.

Fullback Dwayne Mobley is used mostly for blocking duties, but he did gain 62 yards on 22 carries.

Florida's line has had some problems protecting Wuerffel this season, giving up 23 sacks (nearly two per game).

Left tackle Jason Odom, a 6-5, 298 pound senior, is one of the best linemen in the nation. Odom, a Walter Camp and *Football News* All-American, has started 45 games at Florida.

Senior Reggie Green (6-7, 296) starts at guard next to Odom. Green switched to guard this season from tackle, where he earned all-SEC honors as a sophomore in 1993.

Offense hasn't been the Gators' problem this fall, though. Florida's defense gave up an average of 315.6 yards per game this fall, including 185.4 through the air. In addition, Florida gave up at least 20 points five times.

However, the defense has

NEBRASKA VS. FLORIDA TWO-DEEPS

HUSKER OFFENSE

SE	7	Reggie Baul	5-8	170	Sr
	5	Brendan Holbein	5-9	190	Jr
LT	75	Chris Dishman	6-3	310	Jr
	78	Kory Mikos	6-5	285	Jr
LG	67	Aaron Taylor	6-1	305	So
	68	Steve Volin	6-2	290	Sr
C	54	Aaron Graham	6-4	285	Sr
	53	Matt Vrzal	6-1	300	Jr
RG	69	Steve Ott	6-4	290	Sr
	64	Jon Zatechka	6-2	280	So
RT	70	Eric Anderson	6-4	300	So
	77	Adam Treu	6-6	295	Jr
TE	87	Mark Gilman	6-4	240	Sr
	88	Sheldon Jackson	6-4	240	Fr
QB	15	Tommie Frazier	6-2	210	Sr
	18	Brook Berringer	6-4	220	Sr
FB	22	Jeff Makovicka	5-11	225	Jr
	28	Brian Schuster	5-11	225	Jr
IB	30	Ahman Green	6-0	210	Fr
	1	Lawrence Phillips	6-0	220	Jr
WB	33	Clester Johnson	5-11	210	Sr
	25	Jon Vedral	5-11	200	Jr
PK	35	Kris Brown	5-11	190	Fr

GATOR DEFENSE

LE	40	Johnie Church	6-3	264	Sr
	93	Tim Beauchamp	6-2	251	Fr
LT	97	David Barnard	6-2	290	Sr
	99	McDonald Ferguson	6-0	261	Jr
RT	94	Ed Chester	6-4	267	Fr
	66	Keith Council	6-5	278	So
RE	67	Mark Campbell	6-2	281	Sr
	44	James Bates	6-1	241	So
ILB	48	Dexter Daniels	6-1	231	Sr
	58	Johnny Rutledge	6-2	225	Fr
ILB	44	James Bates	6-1	223	So
	50	Kavin Walton	6-0	216	So
NB	11	Ben Hanks	6-2	221	Sr
	or 29	Mike Peterson	6-1	202	Fr
LC	24	Fred Weary	5-10	178	So
	2	Shea Showers	5-11	173	Jr
RC	9	Anthony Lott	5-9	183	Jr
	5	Ronnie Battle	5-8	171	So
SS	4	Lawrence Wright	6-1	206	Jr
	20	Sam McCorkle	5-9	182	Sr
FS	33	Teako Brown	5-11	189	Fr
	13	Mike Harris	6-1	193	So
P	87	Robby Stevenson	6-1	181	Fr

GATOR OFFENSE

WR	28	Chris Doering	6-4	191	Sr
	15	Reidel Anthony	6-0	173	So
LT	74	Jason Odom	6-5	298	Sr
	69	P.J. Harrison	6-6	304	Sr
LG	78	Reggie Green	6-7	296	Sr
	72	Deac Story	6-4	277	Fr
C	71	Jeff Mitchell	6-5	284	Jr
	53	Kevin Johnson	6-3	262	Sr
RG	75	Donnie Young	6-4	299	Jr
	53	Kevin Johnson	6-3	262	Sr
RT	79	Mo Collins	6-5	297	Fr
	73	Pat Browning	6-3	315	Fr
WR	19	Ike Hilliard	6-0	182	So
	12	Jacquez Green	5-9	168	Fr
TE	91	Tremayne Allen	6-2	225	Jr
	80	Shawn Nunn	6-3	252	Jr
QB	7	Danny Wuerffel	6-2	211	Jr
	10	Eric Kresser	6-2	207	Jr
FB	23	Dwayne Mobley	5-10	222	Jr
	34	Jerome Evans	6-1	231	Jr
TB	25	Elijah Williams	5-10	185	So
	22	Terry Jackson	5-11	201	Fr
PK	14	Bart Edmiston	5-10	170	Jr

HUSKER DEFENSE

OLB	93	Jared Tomich	6-2	250	Jr
	58	Luther Hardin	6-2	245	Sr
DT	55	Christian Peter	6-3	300	Sr
	97	Jeff Ogard	6-6	310	Jr
DT	95	Jason Peter	6-4	275	So
	74	Scott Saltsman	6-2	260	Jr
OLB	98	Grant Wistrom	6-5	240	So
	57	Chad Kelsay	6-4	230	Fr
SLB	56	Jay Foreman	6-1	220	Fr
	28	Jamel Williams	6-2	200	Jr
MLB	46	Doug Colman	6-3	245	Sr
	or 41	Phil Ellis	6-2	225	Sr
WLB	43	Terrell Farley	6-0	200	Jr
	91	Ryan Terwilliger	6-5	225	Jr
LC	20	Michael Booker	6-2	190	Jr
	12	Mike Fullman	5-7	160	Jr
ROV	10	Mike Minter	5-10	190	Jr
	4	Octavious McFarlin	5-11	190	So
FS	9	Tony Veland	6-2	205	Sr
	16	Eric Stokes	5-11	180	Jr
RC	8	Tyrone Williams	6-0	185	Sr
	2	Leslie Dennis	5-8	165	So
P	19	Jesse Kosch	6-0	180	So

Depth charts were compiled December 11, 1995, and may change before game time. # = duplicate number * = injured, but probable for game

showed recent improvement. After holding Florida State to less than 200 passing yards, the Gators limited Arkansas to 299 yards and three points in the SEC title game.

The improvement hasn't gone unnoticed, either.

"Our defensive team has improved a lot since early in the season and they effort they turned in against FSU was exceptional," Florida coach Steve Spurrier said. "Holding that offense to under 200 yards passing is a huge accomplishment."

Florida allowed 130.2 yards rushing per game. Right end Mark Campbell is a big-play player, recording 12 tackles for loss and 4.5 sacks in addition to forcing two fumbles and batting down one pass. Johnie Church, the left end, had 27 tackles and nine quarterback hurries.

Senior David Barnard and freshman Ed Chester start at tackle. Chester started the final seven games of the year after beginning the season as a backup.

Ben Hanks starts at nickel back (like a linebacker) and is third on the team with 90 tackles and has forced three fumbles. He has started for four seasons and has made 320 career tackles.

Daniels was in on 84 tackles (including 52 solo), and he recorded at least nine tackles on four occasions this fall. Bates made 75 stops and one interception.

The secondary is led by cornerback Anthone Lott, who made 90 tackles, deflected 13 passes and picked off one. Fred Weary starts at the other cornerback slot. He made two interceptions and made 58 stops.

Strong safety Lawrence Wright led the team with 109 tackles, 72 of which were solo stops, and three interceptions. He also forced two fumbles, had eight deflections and even recorded a sack. Free safety Teako Brown, a freshman, started the final six games and was in on 30 stops.

Florida's special teams have contributed as well. Kicker Bart Edmiston hit 6 of 12 field goal attempts and was perfect on all 71 PAT tries. Punter Robby Stevenson averaged 38.3 yards per attempt, but he only had 33 tries this season thanks to the high-scoring offense.

Florida became just the second team to win three straight outright SEC titles this fall (Alabama under legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant was the other). ■

FLORIDA SEASON STATISTICS



TEAM STATS

	FLORIDA	OPP
First Downs	327	210
Rushing	133	92
Passing	181	99
Penalty	13	19
Rushing Attempts	410	437
Net Yards Rushing	2083	1562
Avg. Per Game	173.6	130.2
Net Yards Passing	4330	2225
Passes Attempted	457	378
Passes Completed	287	187
Had Intercepted	12	14
Avg. Per Game	360.8	185.4
Total Offensive Plays	867	815
Total Yards	6413	3787
Avg. Yards Game	534.4	315.6
Avg. Yards Per Play	7.4	4.7
Fumbles/Lost	22/13	30/15
Penalties/Yards	102/820	69/547
Punts/Yards	34/1297	73/2772
Avg. Per Punt	38.1	38.0
Sacks By/Yds. Lost	29/212	23/178
3rd Down Conv.	72-145	58-174
4th Down Conv.	10-14	8-13
Avg. Possession Time	29:21	30:39

THE RED ZONE

TEAM	In. 20	Scores	TDs	FG
FLORIDA	66	54	49	5
OPPONENTS	35	23	15	8

1995 FLORIDA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 12-0 (9-0)

Sept. 2	Houston	W, 45-21
Sept. 9	@ Kentucky	W, 42-7
Sept. 16	Tennessee	W, 62-37
Sept. 30	Mississippi	W, 28-10
Oct. 7	@ Louisiana St.	W, 28-10
Oct. 14	@ Auburn	W, 49-38
Oct. 28	@ Georgia	W, 52-17
Nov. 4	N. Illinois	W, 58-20
Nov. 11	@ South Carolina	W, 63-7
Nov. 18	Vanderbilt	W, 38-7
Nov. 25	Florida State	W, 35-24
Dec. 2	vs. Arkansas#	W, 34-3
Jan. 2	vs. Nebraska\$	
# SEC Championship Game — Atlanta, Ga.		
\$ Fiesta Bowl — Tempe, Ariz.		

SCORING BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final (Avg.)
FLORIDA	150	180	128	76	— 534 (44.5)
OPPONENTS	58	44	44	55	— 201 (16.8)

INDIVIDUAL STATS

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Williams, E.	11	114	858	78.0	7
Jackson, T.	12	122	780	65.0	6
Taylor, F.	6	48	281	35.1	5
Dubose, E.	9	26	107	13.4	1
Green, J.	11	7	93	8.4	1
Mobley, D.	12	22	62	5.2	0
Evans, J.	12	12	40	3.3	1
Anthony, R.	9	2	21	2.3	1
McGriff, T.	12	1	9	0.8	0
Hilliard, I.	11	2	8	0.7	0
Kresser, E.	9	5	3	0.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Wuerffel, D.	11	325-210-10	.646	3266	35
Kresser, E.	9	112-65-2	.580	995	12

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPG	YPG	Tds.
Doering, C.	12	70	1045	14.9	87.1	17
Hilliard, I.	11	57	1008	17.7	91.6	15
Anthony, R.	9	24	366	15.3	40.7	3
Williams, E.	11	22	277	12.6	25.2	2
Jackson, T.	12	20	188	9.4	15.7	0
Green, J.	11	19	531	28.0	48.3	5
McGriff, T.	12	12	139	11.6	11.6	1
Karim, N.	12	11	149	13.6	12.4	0
Palmer, S.	7	10	127	12.7	14.1	1
Allen, T.	12	8	143	17.9	11.9	1
Mobley, D.	12	8	77	9.6	6.4	1
Numm, S.	12	7	69	9.9	5.8	1

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Wright, L.	12	72	37	109	3	2
Lott, A.	12	62	28	90	1	0
Hanks, B.	12	47	43	90	0	3
Daniels, D.	12	52	32	84	0	4
Harris, M.	12	37	41	78	1	0
Bates, J.	12	39	36	75	1	0
Weary, F.	11	40	18	58	2	0
Jackson, D.	12	27	28	55	3	0
Showers, S.	10	31	16	47	0	0
Barnard, D.	12	26	19	45	0	0
Campbell, M.	12	20	16	36	0	4.8
Church, J.	10	15	15	30	0	4.8
Brown, T.	8	14	16	30	1	0
Chester, E.	9	19	10	29	0	0.8
Peterson, M.	11	14	15	29	0	1
Rutledge, J.	11	18	9	27	0	0
Bartley, J.	12	8	8	16	0	0
Walton, K.	11	8	8	16	0	0
Beauchamp, T.	12	7	6	13	0	1
Davis, C.	12	8	5	13	0	1
Cohena, W.	11	5	6	11	0	2
Rodgers, W.	10	8	2	10	0	1
Moten, M.	6	4	5	9	1	2
Ferguson, M.	8	6	3	9	0	0
Council, K.	7	4	5	9	0	0.5
McCorkle, S.	12	5	3	8	0	1
Battle, R.	9	1	4	5	0	0
Pearson, M.	12	2	2	4	0	0
Pouncy, C.	12	2	1	3	0	0
George, T.	12	1	2	3	1	0
McCray, X.	12	0	0	2	0	0
Jackson, M.	4	1	0	1	0	0
Xynidis, J.	10	0	1	1	0	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	0-29	30-39	40-49	50+	Total
Edmiston, B.	12	3-3	2-6	1-3	0-0	6-12

PUNTING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LP	Block
Stevenson, B.	12	33	1264	38.3	52	0

PUNT RETURNS

Name	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.	LP
Anthony, R.	9	11	122	11.1	0	52
McCorkle, S.	12	1	8	8.0	0	8
Green, J.	11	9	50	5.6	0	25
Palmer, S.	7	7	36	5.1	0	24

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	G	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Tds.	LP
Hilliard, I.	11	2	89	44.5	0	67
Anthony, R.	9	19	472	24.8	1	90
Green, J.	11	16	312	19.5	0	42



KEY MATCHUPS

Nebraska vs. Florida



Nebraska Defense vs. Florida Passing Attack

This could turn out to be the matchup that ultimately sways the game in one direction or the other. Florida quarterback Danny Wuerffel is one of the nation's top passers, averaging 296.9 yards a game through the air. He's thrown 35 touchdown passes and 10 interceptions.

Wuerffel is also accurate, completing 64.6 percent of his passes. Want more? He's thrown for 3,266 yards and was at his best during big games.

However, the Gators haven't been able to offer Wuerffel sure-fire protection, giving up nearly two sacks per game. And in the Fiesta Bowl, they'll be up against a team that has recorded 28 sacks — led by outside linebacker Jared Tomich with seven and linebacker Terrell Farley with five. The Husker rush ends, Tomich and Grant Wistrom, will have to be kept at bay for the Gators' passing attack to be in top form.

The Husker secondary will be tested like never before this season by receivers Chris Doering and Ike Hilliard. Doering, a big possession-type receiver, led the team with 70 receptions for 1,045 yards and 17 touchdowns. Hilliard added 57 catches for 1,008 yards and 15 touchdowns.

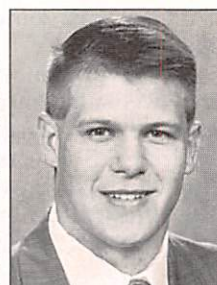
Cornerbacks Eric Stokes, Tyrone Williams and Michael Booker probably will spend some time in man-to-man situations with Florida's wideouts. Safeties Mike Minter and Tony Veland along with inside linebackers Jay Foreman, Doug Colman and Farley also will have coverage responsibilities.

The Huskers gave up 212 passing yards per game. However, Nebraska also recorded 20 interceptions, led by Farley and Booker with three apiece.

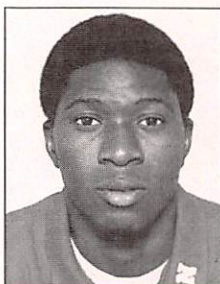
Advantage: FLORIDA



Jared TOMICH



Danny WUERFFEL



Tyrone WILLIAMS



Chris DOERING

Nebraska Running Game vs. Florida Defense

Florida's No. 1 concern going into the Fiesta Bowl is slowing the Huskers' ground attack, which is the best in the nation. Florida, led by tackles David Barnard and Ed Chester, held opponents to 130.2 yards per game, but the Gators didn't see a team that compares to Nebraska.

But then again, can any team's running game compare to Nebraska's? Led by true freshman Ahman Green, Nebraska rolled up 400 yards on the ground each game.

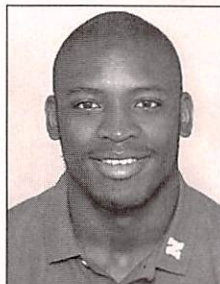
Green gained 1,086 yards on 141 attempts this year, but he tailed off some toward the end. Where the Huskers hurt teams is at depth in the I-back spot. Lawrence Phillips picked up 547 yards in limited actions this year. Clinton Childs added 431 and Damon Benning 407.

If that isn't enough, Frazier, running the option game, was the Huskers' second-leading rusher, gaining 604 yards. Fullback Jeff Makovicka contributed 371 yards.

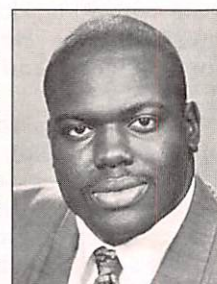
What makes the Huskers' ground game go is the line. Only one lineman who started last year's Orange Bowl is still around, center Aaron Graham. But tackles Chris Dishman and Eric Anderson and guards Aaron Taylor and Steve Ott learned well on the run this year.

More important is the Huskers' depth up front. Last year, Nebraska was able to wear down Miami, then take control in the fourth quarter. Look for the Huskers to keep their linemen fresh to see if the Gators can fare better than the 'Canes.

Advantage: NEBRASKA



Ahman GREEN



David BARNARD



Aaron GRAHAM



Ed CHESTER

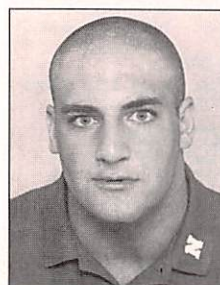
Florida Running Game vs. Nebraska Front

This will be a key area for the Gators. If sophomore tailback Elijah Williams and backup Terry Jackson can get a running game going, it will take a lot of pressure off of Wuerffel and open up the passing game.

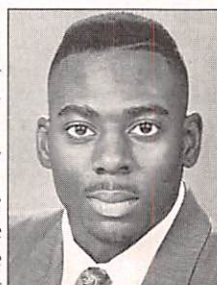
That's easier said than done. Williams rushed for 858 yards on 114 carries, and Jackson had 780 on 122 tries. Florida averaged 173.6 yards rushing.

But the Husker defense spent most of the season shutting down their opponents' running game. Nebraska gave up just 78 yards a contest on the ground, and only two backs were able to rush for more than 100 yards on the Huskers. If the front four of the Huskers can clog up the Gators' running game, Wuerffel could be in for a long day.

Advantage: NEBRASKA



Christian PETER



Elijah WILLIAMS

Nebraska Passing Attack vs. Florida Defense

Nebraska's Tommie Frazier doesn't have to have an exceptional day through the air for the Huskers to be successful. But he does have to take advantage of what the Gator secondary may give him.

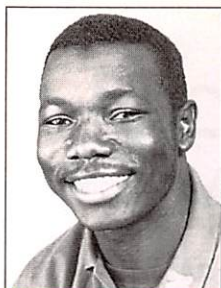
If Florida stacks the line and dares Frazier to throw, that's OK with the Huskers. Frazier completed 92 of 163 passes for 1,362 yards and 17 touchdowns this year. More importantly, he was only picked off four times. There's no question that Frazier is more dangerous running the ball, but he has proven this year that he's a capable passer. What he lacks in the passing department is made up for by his decision-making ability. Frazier doesn't force throws.

Wingback Clester Johnson led the team with 22 catches, followed by Reggie Baul with 17. The Huskers probably will try to get tight end Mark Gilman involved. Gilman had 16 catches this season. None of the Florida linebackers can keep up with Gilman. Nebraska also has some of the best blocking receivers in the college game.

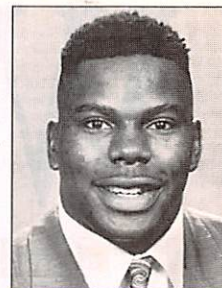
The Gator secondary is led by strong safety Lawrence Wright, who had three of the Gators' 14 interceptions this season.

The Gator line — ends Johnie Church and Mark Campbell, tackles David Barnard and Ed Chester — must put some heat on Frazier. The Gators recorded 29 sacks this year. But the Husker offensive line has yet to give up a sack this season.

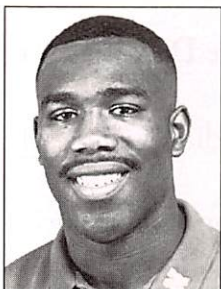
Advantage: NEBRASKA



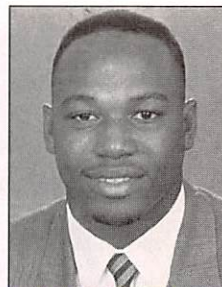
Tommie FRAZIER



Lawrence WRIGHT



Clester JOHNSON



Johnie CHURCH

Nebraska Special Teams vs. Florida Special Teams

If the game comes down to kicking, give the Huskers the slight edge. Freshman Kris Brown has proved his worth this season, hitting 13 field goals and making 58 PATs. Brown won the starting job this fall and has done nothing to lose his hold on it.

Florida's Bart Edmiston was 6-of-11 on field goal tries this fall, including a long of 47 yards. He was also perfect in 71 PAT tries.

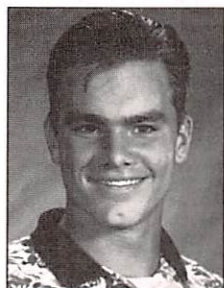
Florida punter Robby Stevenson averaged 38.3 yards per attempt but was only called upon a mere 33 times. Husker punter Jesse Kosch saw even less action, punting just 27 times and averaging 40.3 yards.

Florida's return teams recorded one score this season, a 90-yard kickoff return by Reidel Anthony. Anthony averaged 24.8 yards per return. He was also the team's leading punt returner with an 11.1-yard average.

The Huskers counter with Mike Fullman at the punt returner spot. Fullman averaged 13.6 yards per attempt and proved to be a big-time threat toward the end of the season.

Clinton Childs is the Huskers' No. 1 kick returner, averaging 22.3 yards per attempt. However, since they don't allow a whole lot of points, the Huskers returned just 21 kickoffs this season.

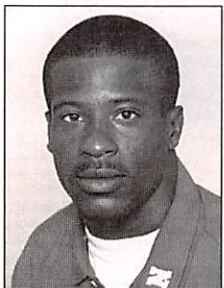
Advantage: NEBRASKA



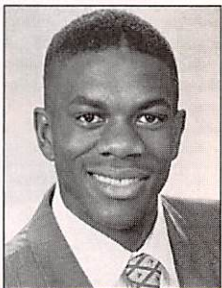
Kris BROWN



Bart EDMISTON



Mike FULLMAN



Reidel ANTHONY

Tom Osborne vs. Steve Spurrier

This will be the first time the Gators have played for a national championship under Spurrier, while Osborne has been through it numerous times.

In six years at Florida, Spurrier's teams are 61-12-1, a winning percentage of 83. Florida also has won the last three outright Southeastern Conference championships.

Florida has fared well at bowl games under Spurrier. Last year, Florida lost to Florida State 23-17 in the Sugar Bowl, a little more than a month after the teams played to a 31-31 draw during the regular season.

Before that, the Gators had won their last two bowl games. They are 2-2 in the postseason under Spurrier.

While this is a new experience for Spurrier, it's old hat for Osborne. This will be the third straight year Osborne will guide the Huskers into the game that will determine the national title. The Huskers lost to Florida State by two points to lose the title in 1993 before beating Miami 24-17 to win their first national crown under Osborne.

Osborne is no stranger to the Fiesta Bowl, but he's never fared well in Tempe. The Huskers have accepted bids to play in the Fiesta four previous times under Osborne — in 1975, '85, '87, and '89 — and lost all four times.

Advantage: OSBORNE



Tom OSBORNE



Steve SPURRIER

Nebraska fans are flying high as the top-ranked Huskers prepare to defend their national title against No. 2 Florida in the Fiesta Bowl.

But despite the team's recent invincibility, the Fiesta Bowl has not been kind to the Huskers. It's sure to bring back a few bad memories of the days when NU's postseason record wasn't anything to brag about.

And now, for a little unpleasant history ...

Nebraska's Fiesta Bowl woes began in the 1975 season, Tom Osborne's third as head coach. The Cornhuskers were 10-0 and ranked

invitation to play Arizona State in the Fiesta Bowl game. The Sun Devils of coach Frank Kush were undefeated, untied and, for the most part, unappreciated by those who voted in the polls.

"Nobody wanted to play ASU," said John Junker, executive director of the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl, this year following Nebraska's 37-0 victory over Oklahoma on the day after Thanksgiving. The outstanding Arizona State team was looking for national respect and playing on its home field, Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe.

Such a prospect was understandably unappealing.

"Nebraska's first inclination was

tory over Florida State. For another, it was Arizona State's bowl. The Sun Devils played in three of the first four games and won all three.

It wasn't surprising that Fiesta Bowl officials had problems finding an attractive opponent for the 1975 Arizona State team. And if at least some of Nebraska's senior players had their way, it would not have been them. Several voted to reject the invitation.

That the Cornhuskers had been hesitant to play the game might help to explain what happened. Nebraska lost three turnovers — and the game, 17-14.

Danny Kush, the coach's son, kicked his third field goal of the

FIESTA FUNK

The Huskers will battle history as well as Florida in the Fiesta Bowl, where they are 0-4



second heading into the season finale at Norman. The Sooners were No. 7 after suffering a 23-3 upset to Kansas.

But then the Huskers' opportunity to play for the national championship in the Orange Bowl dissolved into the frustration of a 35-10 loss to Oklahoma at Norman.

Nebraska held a 10-7 lead seven minutes into the third quarter. But the Sooners converted two fumbles and two interceptions into 28 points, 21 of them in the fourth quarter. OU picked up a share of the Big Eight championship and an invitation to the Orange Bowl.

The Cornhuskers were left to fend for themselves, which meant deciding whether to accept or reject an

not to play," Junker said.

The Cornhusker seniors were accustomed to playing in major bowls. The previous season, they defeated Florida 13-10 in the Sugar Bowl. The year before, they handled Texas 19-3 in the Cotton Bowl. And the year before that, they embarrassed Notre Dame 40-6 in the Orange Bowl.

In fact, Nebraska had won six consecutive bowl games after staying home for the holidays in 1967 and 1968. All but the first of the six were played on New Year's Day or New Year's Eve.

The Fiesta Bowl didn't qualify as major in 1975. For one thing, it was only four years old, beginning in 1971 with Arizona State's 45-38 vic-

game to break a 14-14 tie with 4:50 remaining. The Cornhuskers had taken a 14-6 lead into the fourth quarter, on a pair of touchdowns by I-back Monte Anthony.

John Jefferson scored Arizona State's lone touchdown on a 10-yard pass from back-up quarterback Fred Mortensen, who threw only three passes during the game. The other two were a two-point conversion and an interception.

Nebraska's starting quarterback, junior Vince Ferragamo, threw only one pass, which was intercepted, before he was replaced by senior Terry Luck.

The 1975 Fiesta Bowl was played the day after Christmas. On New Year's night, Oklahoma defeated

Michigan 14-6 in the Orange Bowl game to earn coach Barry Switzer a second consecutive national championship. Earlier that day, No. 1-ranked Ohio State was upset in the Rose Bowl, leaving the door open for the Sooners. Arizona State finished at No. 2 in the rankings.

Nebraska entered the Fiesta Bowl ranked ninth. But the Huskers definitely gave the fledgling bowl some credibility. The Cornhuskers' participation in the Fiesta Bowl "was a huge credential around our neck at the time," Junker said.

Nebraska has played in the Fiesta Bowl three times since 1975, with the same result. On Jan. 1, 1986, the Cornhuskers lost to Michigan, 27-23.

On Jan. 1, 1988, they lost to Florida State, 31-26. And on Jan. 1, 1990, they lost to coach Bobby Bowden's Seminoles again, 41-17.

Despite those disappointments, Nebraska's relationship with the Fiesta Bowl has been good. From the Fiesta Bowl's point of view, it couldn't be better. "We have a great deal of affection (for Nebraska)," Junker said.

Because of the Big Eight Conference's affiliation with the Orange Bowl, the Fiesta Bowl has always been a consolation bowl for the Cornhuskers. "Before, we always had to wait for Nebraska to get nicked once or twice," said Junker. Under the provisions of the Bowl Alliance, however, that is no longer the case. The Fiesta Bowl had the first and second picks from among the Bowl Alliance qualifiers this season. Of course, top-ranked Nebraska was its first pick.

"This is our 25th anniversary," Junker said. "We've literally been working 25 years to get the Big Eight champion." His excitement over this year's national championship matchup is based on that, "not just on having an undefeated and untied No. 1 team. We were a little emotional about it."

Keeping in mind that the unpleasant 0-4 history will have no effect on Nebraska when it defends its national championship at Sun Devil Stadium on the night of Jan. 2, 1996, here are capsules of the last three Cornhuskers Fiesta Bowl experiences:

Quarterback Jim Harbaugh (4) rallied the Wolverines with a 24-point third quarter to beat Nebraska 27-23 in 1986.

NEBRASKA'S FIESTA BOWL HISTORY

YEAR	OPPONENT	NU-OPP.		
		AP RANK	W/L	SCORE
1975	Arizona State	6/7	L	14-17
1986	Michigan	7/5	L	23-27
1988	Florida State	5/3	L	28-31
1990	Florida State	6/5	L	17-41

1986

Michigan 27, Nebraska 23

The Cornhuskers went into the game ranked No. 7 after a 9-2 regular season that began with a 17-13 loss to Florida State in Lincoln and ended with a 27-7 loss to Oklahoma in Norman. Michigan was ranked No. 5 after finishing second to Iowa in the Big Ten.

Nebraska took a 14-3 halftime lead on a pair of second-quarter

touchdowns by I-back Doug DuBose. But quarterback Jim Harbaugh rallied the Wolverines to a 24-point third quarter.

The points came off two fumbles and a blocked punt. The Wolverines also got two drive-sustaining pass interference penalties during the 52-yard touchdown march that ensured the victory. "That was the most disastrous quarter I've ever seen," said Cornhusker running backs coach



Chuck Peterson



John Bills

Frank Solich. "I've never known of so many bad things happening to a team in such a short period of time."

Nebraska outgained Michigan, 370 yards to 234 yards. DuBose carried 17 times for 99 of the Cornhuskers' 304 rushing yards.

Freshman quarterback Steve Taylor came off the bench to direct a fourth-quarter touchdown drive, which covered 77 yards on 12 plays. A little over a minute later, Michigan took a safety. But the Wolverine defense held off Nebraska for the final 13:38.

1988

Florida State 31, Nebraska 28

The Cornhuskers were ranked No. 1 when they lost to No. 2 Oklahoma 17-7 in what was billed as the "Game of the Century II" at Memorial Stadium. A week later, they defeated Colorado 24-7 to finish the regular season 10-1 and ranked No. 5. Florida State was No. 3.

Nebraska took a 14-0 lead into the second quarter following a 52-yard

Broderick Thomas (89) and Neil Smith (99) held the Seminole running game in check, but FSU racked up 375 yards through the air to win 31-28 in 1988.

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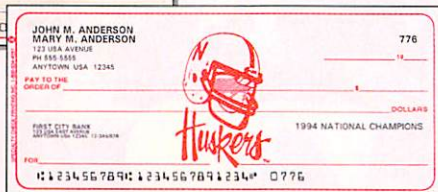
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punt return for a touchdown by Dana Brinson. Florida State scored 21 second-quarter points to lead at halftime, however, 21-14.

The Cornhuskers regained the lead in the third quarter, 28-24, only to see Florida State quarterback Danny McManus team with Ronald Lewis on a 15-yard touchdown pass with 3:07 left in the game. McManus was 28-of-51 passing for 375 yards and three touchdowns.

Steve Taylor rallied Nebraska in the closing minutes, completing a pass to Morgan Gregory on a play that would have carried to the Seminoles' 2-yard line had it not been nullified by a penalty.

Before the game, Florida State coach Bobby Bowden discussed the pattern that had emerged in the FSU-Nebraska series. If the score had been close, the Seminoles won. If the score had been lopsided, the Cornhuskers won. "So I hope it's close," he said.

It was. And Florida State won.

And a somewhat famous player named Deion Sanders started at cornerback (yes, just one position on that day) for Florida State. He had three tackles, returned two punts for 12 yards and intercepted one of Taylor's 14 passes, returning it 3 yards.

1990

Florida State 41, Nebraska 17

The pattern to which Bobby Bowden alluded before the 1988 Fiesta Bowl game didn't hold true this time. The score was lopsided, but Nebraska didn't win.

Florida State had recovered from back-to-back losses to Southern

Mississippi and Clemson to win nine games in a row and rise to No. 5 in the polls. The Seminoles defeated eventual national champion Miami 24-10 in late October. Nebraska's only loss in 11 regular-season games came at Colorado, 27-21.

Nebraska scored first on a 9-yard touchdown pass from Gerry Gdowski to Morgan Gregory, less than four minutes into the first quarter. Florida State outscored the Cornhuskers 41-3 during the second and third quarters, however, to eliminate the potential for fourth-quarter suspense.

Peter Tom Willis, the Seminoles' senior quarterback, had a career game, completing 25-of-40 passes for 422 yards and five touchdowns. "They obviously had very fine receivers and a great passer," Osborne said.

Willis, who was drafted by the Chicago Bears, had a brief and undistinguished NFL career as a backup. Running back Dexter Carter, who now plays for the San Francisco 49ers, caught one of the Willis touchdown passes. Nebraska was limited to 115 rushing yards on 46 carries. ■

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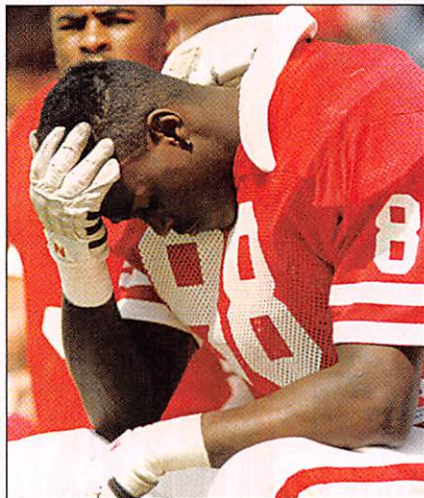
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NEBRASKA BEEF COUNCIL



Mike Croel and Nebraska suffered their worst Fiesta Bowl loss in 1990 when the Seminoles dropped them 41-17.

William Louer



You can't keep a good man down, or out of the starting lineup. Terrell Farley was bound to step up.

"He's got tremendous closing speed and can get to the quarterback faster than anyone else we have on defense," inside linebackers coach Craig Bohl said in announcing Farley's promotion from back-up to starter.

"Plus, he's added a spark on special teams."

That was prior to the Kansas State game, after Farley had proven his versatility. In his first game as a Cornhusker, at Oklahoma State, he intercepted a pass and sprinted 29 yards for a touchdown.

In his second game, at Michigan State, he made six tackles, including two quarterback sacks for losses totaling 10 yards.

In his third game, against Arizona State, he intercepted another pass and returned it 21 yards for a touchdown. A definite pattern was emerging. "The things Terrell did were a little bit special," Bohl said.

Farley had earned the chance to start at weakside linebacker. When Bohl told him, "my heart dropped," Farley said. "I was nervous all day."

By game time, however, he had focused his nervous energy on Kansas State, which came to Lincoln with a No. 8 national ranking. The result was a remarkable performance: 10 tackles, including six unassisted, and two sacks, for 22 yards in losses.

That came as no surprise to Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne.

"We have liked his athleticism since day one. He makes plays," Osborne said. "Somehow he gets in the right place at the right time, and covers a lot of field in doing it."

sudden IMPACT

Farley had to cover several hundred miles to get to Nebraska. His home is in Columbus, Ga., where he grew up imagining himself playing major college football at Alabama.

He led Kendrick High School to a state football championship as a junior. During his junior and senior years, he blocked 20 kicks.

He also competed in track and field, running on gold-medal 4x100 and 4x400 relays at the state meet. That explains his extraordinary speed.

Farley's dream of playing for Alabama ended when the Crimson Tide didn't show much recruiting interest in him. Clemson did, however, and that's how he ended up at Independence, Kan., Community College. "Clemson sent my tapes there," Farley said.

The original plan was, he would get his grades in order at the junior college, then transfer to Clemson.

"But Clemson never did get back to me," Farley said. The Tigers seemed to lose interest for a time. And when their interest resumed, during his sophomore year, it was too late.

It took less than a year for junior Terrell Farley to dominate the team defensive statistics and earn the Big Eight Defensive Newcomer and Player of the Year awards

"My first year, I still wanted to go to Clemson," Farley said. "But not the second, not after schools like Nebraska and Texas A&M started sending me (recruiting) letters."

Farley was no secret at Independence Community College. As a freshman, he was credited with 95 tackles and blocked seven kicks. As a sophomore, he made 116 tackles, including 12 sacks, and blocked nine punts and six field goal attempts.

In a playoff game against Coffeyville, Kan., Community College, he returned two fumbles for touchdowns as Independence won 34-20. He was selected as the Jayhawk League's Linebacker of the Year.

"Junior college was tough," said Farley, who considered packing up and going home more than once. He had never been to Independence, Kan., much less the Midwest. And when he arrived, he had second thoughts about his decision. "I thought, 'Man, I didn't know it was going to be like this.'"



Terrell Farley, the team leader in tackles this season with 62, has a knack for getting to quarterbacks quickly.

He ran up a sizable telephone bill that first year in Kansas. "I missed my family and friends. But my dad said, 'Stick in there. It'll be all right,'" said Farley. It was.

Nebraska was looking for inside linebackers to replace, among others, All-American Ed Stewart. And Farley was looking for a program in which he'd be given a chance to play right away. It proved to be a good match.

Farley enjoyed his recruiting visit. Larry Arnold, his host, "told me it was a good place," Farley said. The

low-key sales pitch worked.

Farley was the only junior college player among the Cornhuskers' 25 scholarship recruits. He was one of only four players in that class who didn't redshirt this season. The others were true freshmen Ahman Green, Chad Kelsay and Kris Brown.

Farley's plan was to "just go out there and try my best." Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride "told me I had a long way to go, that I had to step up a level to play."

Stepping up a level meant being more physical. "He (McBride) told me when I first came here that I wasn't physical enough, that I had to be more physical or I wasn't going to play," said Farley, who stands 6-feet tall and weighs 200 pounds. His speed allowed him to follow McBride's advice.

Although he's not particularly big for a linebacker, he can build up a lot of momentum by the time he makes contact with a ball carrier. Plus, he has a linebacker's mentality.

"I just want to go hit somebody, build up my speed and go get someone," Farley said.

Farley has always preferred defense. As a youngster, he played quarterback on offense and linebacker on defense in a Pop Warner League.

Despite his late start at starting, Farley was chosen by the Associated Press as the Big Eight's Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

Farley blocked a Missouri punt out of the end zone for a safety. He made seven tackles, broke up two passes and intercepted a pass at Colorado. And he had nine tackles at Kansas. He has displayed an uncanny ability for making big plays in big games.

Farley finished the regular season as Nebraska's leading tackler. He was credited with 62, including 27 unassisted and nine for losses totaling 45 yards. He led the team in sacks with five. He broke up five passes, to go with the three interceptions.

He couldn't have imagined a better first season competing at the major college level. He's made the folks back home in Georgia proud.

"My family and friends love watching me play on television," he said. "They really support me."

They also are curious about what Nebraska is like. Farley tells them: "It gets cold." ■

TERRELL

FARLEY

Game-By-Game Statistics

OKLAHOMA STATE

TT: 2 • UA: 2 • AT: 0
INT: 1 (29 yds. TD) • PBU: 0

MICHIGAN STATE

TT: 6 • UA: 4 • AT: 2
INT: 0 • PBU: 0 • Sacks: 2 (10 yds)

ARIZONA STATE

TT: 5 • UA: 1 • AT: 4
INT: 1 (21 yds. TD) • PBU: 0

PACIFIC

TT: 4 • UA: 2 • AT: 2
INT: 0 • PBU: 0 • Sacks: 1 (8 yds)

WASHINGTON STATE

TT: 3 • UA: 1 • AT: 2
INT: 0 • PBU: 1 • Punt Block: 1

MISSOURI

TT: 5 • UA: 3 • AT: 2
INT: 0 • PBU: 1 • Punt Block: 1
TFL: 1 (1 yd)

KANSAS STATE

TT: 10 • UA: 6 • AT: 4
INT: 0 • PBU: 0 • SACKS: 2 (22 yds)

COLORADO

TT: 7 • UA: 3 • AT: 4
INT: 1 (42 yds) • PBU: 2

IOWA STATE

TT: 5 • UA: 0 • AT: 5
INT: 0 • PBU: 0

KANSAS

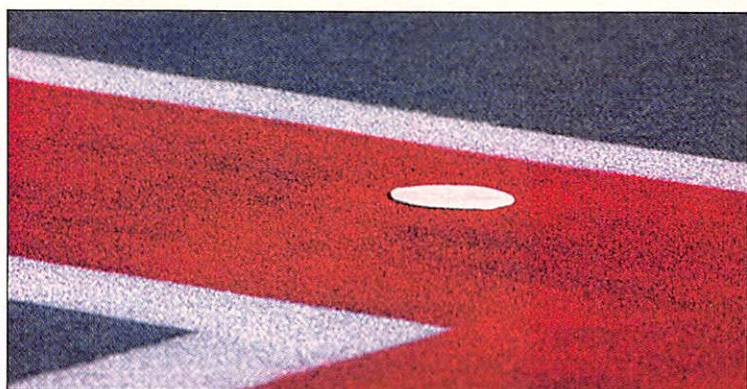
TT: 9 • UA: 3 • AT: 6
INT: 0 • PBU: 0 • For Loss: 2 (3 yds)

OKLAHOMA

TT: 6 • UA: 2 • AT: 4
INT: 0 • PBU: 1

SEASON TOTALS

TT: 62 • UA: 27 • AT: 35
INT: 3 (92 yds. 2TDs) • PBU: 5
Sacks: 5 (40 yds) • QB Hurries: 10



Sooners' Slide Turns Into Husker Fiesta

Tom Osborne wore a Fiesta Bowl sun sticker to the South Stadium varsity lounge for his interview following Nebraska's 37-0 victory against Oklahoma. John Junker, the executive director of the Fiesta Bowl, wore a red Cornhusker sweatshirt beneath his bright yellow Fiesta Bowl sportcoat.

Make that the "Tostitos Fiesta Bowl," Osborne said near the end of the interview.

"We're supposed to say that," Osborne added, as the small contingent of Fiesta Bowl representatives, which included Junker, applauded the inclusion of the bowl's new title sponsor.

By MIKE BABCOCK

The Tostitos sponsorship has enabled the Fiesta Bowl to pay participants in its Jan. 2, 1996, game at Tempe, Ariz., approximately \$13 million apiece. Not bad for a night's work. Plus, college football's national championship will be at stake.

That defending national champion Nebraska would be one of the participants was apparent following the completion of the Cornhuskers' third consecutive undefeated regular season, and their 24th consecutive victory overall. But the Fiesta Bowl had to wait until Dec. 3 to make it official.

Excuse me, the Tostitos Fiesta Bowl. No disrespect intended.

Under the provisions of the Bowl Alliance, no invitation to its three bowls (Fiesta, Sugar and Orange) could be extended until Dec. 3. In Nebraska's case, however, that was only a formality, a fact duly noted by the more demonstrative members in the Memorial Stadium crowd of 75,662.

Cornhusker scores against Oklahoma produced showers of tortillas (Tostitos are crunchy tortillas, for the one or two who might not know), which were

Jared Tomich made a day of blowing by J.R. Conrad (78) and into the faces of quarterbacks Eric Moore (1) and Garrick McGee.



Oklahoma game photos by Bob Berry







The offense didn't contribute a touchdown until 48 seconds into the fourth quarter when wingback Jon Vedral (25) took in a Tommie Frazier pass from 38 yards out.

considerably less hazardous than the projectiles symbolic of the Orange Bowl — until this season, the Big Eight champion's destination.

The first tortilla shower came less than five minutes into the game, when true freshman Kris Brown kicked the first of his three field goals. The 31-yarder was all Nebraska needed for its 11th victory, and fifth in a row against Oklahoma. The Cornhusker defense would see to that by holding Oklahoma scoreless for the first time since Oct. 24, 1942. You can look it up.

"Today, it was the defense's turn to carry the load," said Jason Peter, Nebraska's sophomore defensive tackle. "What the heck? The offense has done it (carried the load) often enough this year."

Charlie McBride, Nebraska's defensive coordinator, was profuse in his praise of the performance.

"The kids played as good on defense as they have since I've been here," said McBride, who is in his 19th year as an Osborne assistant. "You know what makes for champions?"

McBride answered his own question, in the unmistakable style of Kent Pavelka, the radio network voice of the Cornhuskers. "Defense, defense, defense," he said. "These kids did everything you can ask for."

"This was an inspired, incredible performance by a lot of different people (on defense)."

The defense not only shut out the somewhat self-destructive Sooners but also contributed two touchdowns to the cause. The first came on a 36-yard interception return by Jamel Williams less than two minutes after Brown's first field goal. The second came on a 57-yard run with a fumble by Tony Veland midway through the third quarter.

Nebraska was leading 13-0 at the time Veland scored. By that point, Osborne, never one to make assumptions, sensed victory.



"I never felt we were going to get beat, but it took a little pressure off to go ahead 20-0. The way they were moving the ball, it didn't look like 20 points was something they were going to be able to overcome," he said.

The way the Sooners were moving the ball might best be described as not very well. And even though they did manage to compete a pass or two in succession, they had a propensity toward impeding their own progress. In addition to three turnovers, they drew 97 yards in penalties.

"Our football team has played giveaway throughout the year, and that was the story again," said first-year Oklahoma head coach Howard Schnellenberger. "We are our own worst enemy. If it isn't throwing interceptions or fumbling the ball, it's getting holding penalties and blocks in the back."

The Sooners' offense, however it

With Frazier held in check by a Sooner defense keyed to hurting his Heisman chances, Lawrence Phillips (1) and others took over the ground game.



was short-circuited, managed 241 total yards, only 51 of which came on the ground. What little offensive success Oklahoma had came on the passing of senior Garrick McGee, who replaced redshirted freshman

Eric Moore at quarterback to start the second quarter.

"I was surprised they switched quarterbacks (so quickly)," Nebraska's Jared Tomich said.

The junior outside linebacker



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED 39

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
McGee	30-15-1	159	0
Moore, E.	4-1-1	31	0

Nov. 11	@ Kansas	W, 41-3
Nov. 24	Oklahoma	W, 37-0
Jan. 2	vs. Florida	

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED 41

shouldn't have been all that surprised. He was responsible, in part, for Moore's quick departure. Tomich and sophomore Grant Wistrom, the starting outside linebacker on the other side, spent the windy afternoon harassing first Moore and then McGee.

At times, Osborne said, the powerful Tomich simply shoved the offensive linemen attempting to block him into the quarterback. Tomich had two sacks among his five tackles. "He and Wistrom are really relentless," said Osborne.

Wistrom was credited with six tackles, including two for losses totaling 13 yards. He was chosen by ABC television as the Cornhuskers' outstanding player of the game.

Tyrell Peters was selected as Oklahoma's outstanding performer.

The junior middle linebacker made 13 tackles, nine of them unassisted and one fewer than senior free safety Maylon Wesley.

Nebraska established school single-season records for points (52.4) and yards (556.3) per game, surpassing the averages (52.0, 546.7) of the 1983 "Scoring Explosion" team.

The Cornhuskers' offensive totals were modest by those standards, however. And the offense didn't contribute a touchdown until 48 seconds into the fourth quarter, when quarterback Tommie Frazier teamed with wingback Jon Vedral on a 38-yard play.

Fullback Joel Makovicka scored a second touchdown with 44 seconds remaining in the game, on a 17-yard run that carried through the middle of Oklahoma's weary defense.

"We felt the strongest part of Oklahoma's team was defense," said Osborne. "It was a real struggle offensively. We felt if we could keep plugging away, we could wear them down. But it wasn't easy. I don't think the difference between the two teams was 37 points."

Nebraska's 271 rushing yards were the most against Oklahoma this season. But the Cornhuskers' best individual rushing performance was Lawrence Phillips' 73 yards on 15 carries. Starting I-back Ahman Green was limited to 44 yards on 13 carries, to leave him short of the conference single-season rushing record by a freshman.

Green finished the regular season with 1,086 yards. Kansas running back June Henley set the freshman record at 1,127 yards in 1993.

"I was more apprehensive about this game than any game we've played in a long time, and that includes Colorado, Kansas State and Kansas, just because I felt they (the Sooners) had good athletes and because I thought the Oklahoma State game would really focus them," Osborne said.

Oklahoma lost to Oklahoma State 12-0 the week before coming to Lincoln.

Osborne needn't have worried. The Cornhuskers showed the balance of a national champion in dispatching Oklahoma and ending the Big Eight era in football.

"We put the load on the defense today," said senior center and co-captain Aaron Graham. "It's nice to have a team where you can do that. It shows a pretty complete package when the offense wins here and there and the defense wins here and there, and you end up winning everything."

Ohio State still claimed it deserved the No. 1 national ranking on the day after Thanksgiving. The next day, however, Michigan laid such a claim to rest by beating the Buckeyes 31-23 in Ann Arbor, Mich.

But even if Ohio State had avoided the upset to survive the regular season undefeated and untied, the Cornhuskers deserved the top spot, according to the opportunistic Vedral. "They (the Sooners) shut down our running game, our option game, and yet, we still got 407 yards, three field goals and two touchdowns (on offense)," he said. "Sounds like a No. 1 team to me."

And to a delighted group of Fiesta Bowl officials.

TOSTITOS Fiesta Bowl officials. ■

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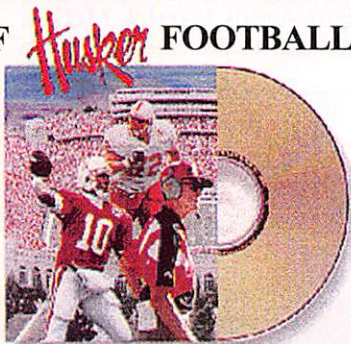
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STATISTICS VS. OKLAHOMA

NOVEMBER 24, 1995

SCORE BY QUARTERS

TEAM	1	2	3	4	Final
NEBRASKA	10	3	10	14	— 37
OKLAHOMA	0	0	0	0	— 0

TEAM STATS

	OU	NU
First Downs	12	26
Rushing	3	17
Passing	9	8
Penalty	0	1
Rushing Attempts	30	56
Yards Gained Rushing	94	289
Yards Lost Rushing	43	18
Net yards rushing	51	271
Net yards passing	190	136
Passes attempted	34	27
Passes completed	16	13
Had intercepted	2	1
Total plays	64	83
Total net yards	241	407
Avg. gain per play	3.8	4.9
Fumbles-lost	3-1	4-1
Penalties-yards	9-97	3-24
Punts-yards	10-417	4-172
Avg. per punt	41.7	43.0
Possession time	27:14	32:46

DEFENSIVE LEADERS

NEBRASKA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Veland	5	2	7	0	0
Farley	2	4	6	0	0
Wistrom	4	2	6	0	0
Minter	3	2	5	0	0
Peter, C.	0	5	5	0	0
Foreman	1	4	5	0	0
Tomich	2	3	5	2	0
Williams, J.	2	2	4	0	1
Peter, J.	1	3	4	0	0
Colman	0	3	3	0	0
Ellis	1	1	2	0	0
McFarlin	1	0	1	0	0
Fullman	1	0	1	0	0
Booker	0	1	1	0	1
Hesse	1	0	1	0	0
Penland	1	0	1	0	0

OKLAHOMA	Solo	Asst	TT	Sacks	Int.
Player					
Wesley	6	8	14	0	0
Peters	9	4	13	0	0
Fogle	2	7	9	0	0
Davis	4	2	6	0	0
Bush	1	3	4	0	1

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

RUSHING NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Phillips	15	73	4.8	25	0
Makovicka, Joel	4	45	11.3	17	1
Green	13	44	3.4	13	0
Frazier	10	35	3.5	11	0
Childs	4	32	8.0	13	0
Makovicka, Jeff	4	15	3.8	6	0
Schuster	3	14	4.6	6	0
Berringer	3	13	4.3	15	0

OKLAHOMA

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	Long	TD
Moore, J.	14	39	2.8	12	0
Allen	7	19	2.7	5	0
McGee	5	18	3.6	8	0
Fazande	1	6	6.0	6	0

PASSING NEBRASKA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
Frazier	25-12-1	128	1
Berringer	2-1-0	8	0

OKLAHOMA

Player	Att-Cmp-Int	Yds	TD
McGee	30-15-1	159	0
Moore, E.	4-1-1	31	0

RECEIVING NEBRASKA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Baul	4	38	9.5	12	0
Holbein	2	20	10.0	10	0
Johnson	2	19	9.5	11	0
Green	2	1	0.5	2	0
Vedral	1	38	38.0	38	1
Gilman	1	17	17.0	17	0
Phillips	1	3	3.0	3	0

OKLAHOMA

Player	Rec	Yds	APC	Lng	TD
Alexander	6	71	11.8	31	0
Mills	4	76	19.0	31	0
Penny	3	27	9.0	13	0
Moore, J.	3	16	5.3	11	0

FIELD GOALS NEBRASKA

Player	Att	Made	Distance
Brown	4	3	31, 27, 35

OKLAHOMA

Player	Att	Made	Distance
None Attempted			

1995 SEASON STATS

(11 GAMES)

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	Tds.
Green, A.	11	141	1086	98.7	13
Frazier, T.	11	97	604	55.0	14
Phillips, L.	5	71	547	114.8	9
Childs, C.	8	55	431	53.8	3
Benning, D.	9	63	407	50.8	4
Makovicka, Jeff	11	63	371	33.7	1
Sims, J.	9	30	270	30.0	3
Schuster, B.	11	28	246	22.3	0
Makovicka, Joel	11	22	185	16.8	2
Berringer, B.	9	21	81	9.0	0
Washington, R.	8	3	44	5.5	0
Turman, M.	9	13	35	3.8	1

PASSING

Name	G	A-C-I	Pct.	Yds.	Tds.
Frazier, T.	11	163-92-4	.564	1362	17
Berringer, B.	9	51-26-0	.510	252	0
Turman, M.	9	12-4-2	.300	73	1

RECEIVING

Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	Tds.
Johnson, C.	11	22	367	16.7	33.4	2
Baul, R.	11	17	304	17.9	27.6	2
Gilman, M.	11	16	256	16.0	23.3	1
Vedral, J.	11	14	272	19.4	24.7	5
Holbein, B.	11	14	151	10.8	13.7	1
Green, A.	11	12	102	8.5	9.3	3
Jackson, S.	10	6	52	8.7	5.2	2
Cheatham, K.	5	4	31	7.8	6.2	0
Phillips, L.	5	4	14	3.5	2.8	0
Washington, R.	8	3	24	8.0	3.0	0
Brown, L.	11	2	44	22.0	4.0	1
Benning, D.	9	2	40	20.0	4.4	0
Childs, C.	8	2	19	9.5	2.0	0
Jackson, V.	11	2	13	6.5	1.2	1

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	Long
Brown, K.	11	16	13	47

DEFENSE

Name	G	UT	AT	TT	Int.	Sacks
Farley, T.	11	27	35	62	2	5
Minter, M.	11	27	26	53	2	0
Williams, J.	11	22	25	47	1	1
Colman, D.	11	19	27	46	1	2
Peter, C.	11	12	34	46	0	2
Wistrom, G.	11	21	23	44	0	4
Veland, T.	11	22	16	38	1	0
Hesse, J.	11	20	17	37	0	1
Terwilliger, R.	11	18	17	35	0	0
Booker, M.	11	20	13	33	3	0
Foreman, J.	11	10	22	32	0	0
Peter, J.	11	9	21	30	0	0
Williams, T.	11	19	9	28	1	0
Ellis, P.	8	11	16	27	1	2
Tomich, J.	11	18	9	27	0	10
McFarlin, O.	11	13	8	21	0	0
Kelsay, C.	11	13	7	20	0	2
Stokes, E.	11	7	11	18	0	0
Penland, A.	10	6	11	17	0	0
Fullman, M.	11	11	5	16	1	0
Warfield, E.	11	7	9	16	0	0
Rucker, M.	9	3	10	13	0	1
Saltsman, S.	6	5	8	13	0	1

TEAM STATISTICS

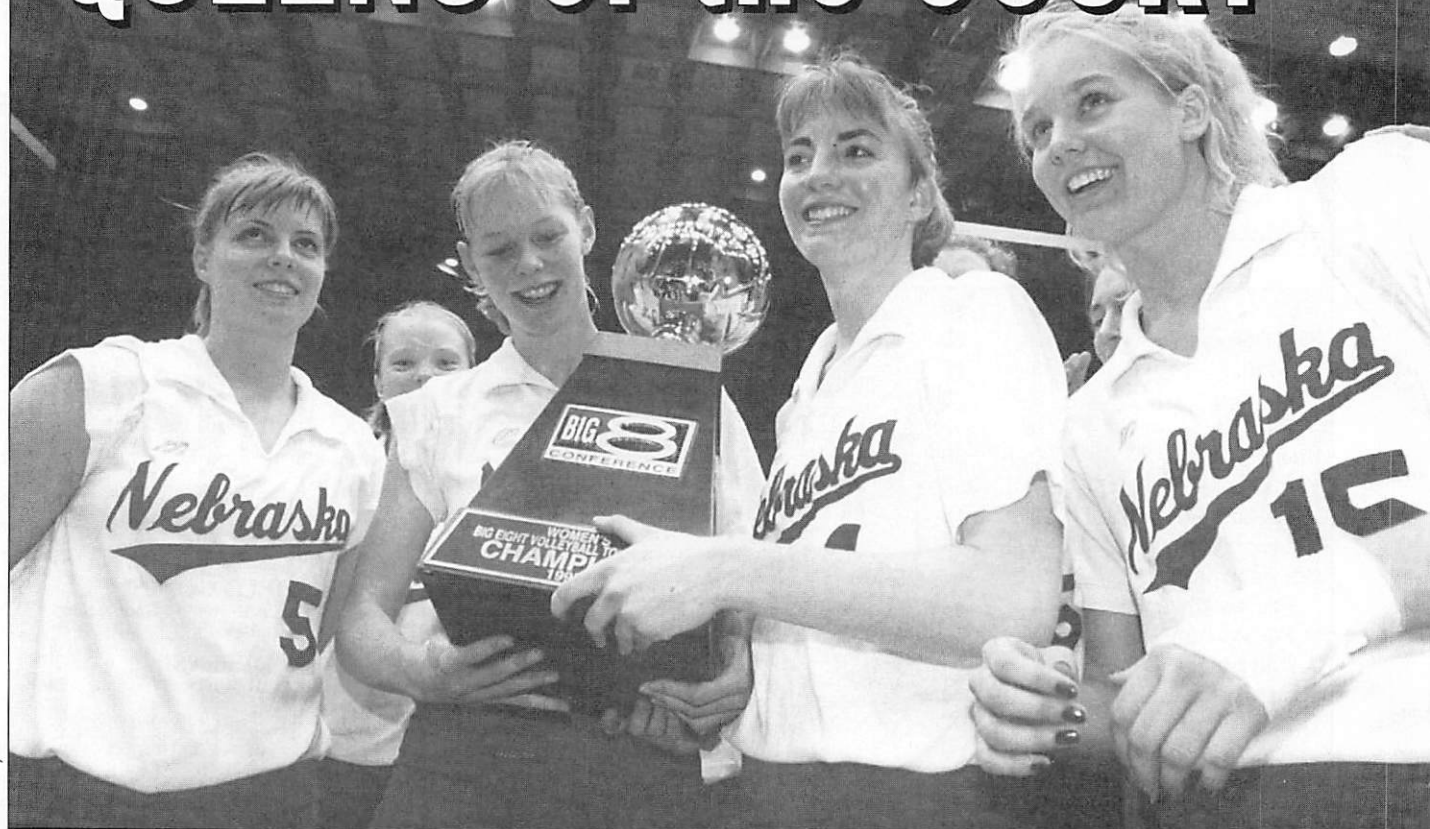
	NU	OPP
Total Offensive Yards	6,119	3,235
Net Rushing Yards	4,398	862
Passing Yards	1,721	2,373
Scoring		
1st	158	175
2nd	175	136
3rd	136	107
4th	107	576
TOT		
Opponents	34	38
	31	47
	150	

1995 NEBRASKA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Record (Conference) — 11-0 (7-0)

Aug. 31	@ Oklahoma St.	W, 64-21
Sept. 9	@ Michigan St.	W, 50-10
Sept. 16	Arizona St.	W, 77-28
Sept. 23	Pacific	W, 49-7
Sept. 30	Washington St.	W, 35-21
Oct. 14	Missouri	W, 57-0
Oct. 21	Kansas St.	W, 49-25
Oct. 28	@ Colorado	W, 44-21
Nov. 4	Iowa St.	W, 73-14
Nov. 11	@ Kansas	W, 41-3
Nov. 24	Oklahoma	W, 37-0
Jan. 2	vs. Florida	

QUEENS of the COURT



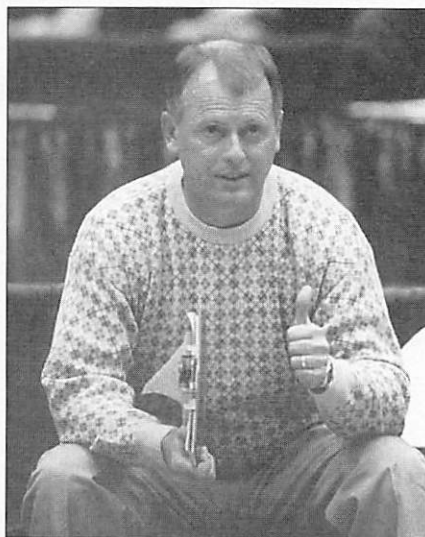
Bob Berry

Terry Pettit's squad captured its 17 Big Eight crown in 20 years, but an NCAA title is the focus now

By Mark Derowitsch

The pressures of the postseason haven't been a big source of concern for the Nebraska volleyball team in recent years. After all, the Huskers know just what to expect in do-or-die matches because they've been in them so often.

Take the Big Eight Tournament for example. The top-ranked Huskers won their second straight conference postseason tournament last month at the Omaha Civic Auditorium. Nebraska blasted Iowa State 15-4, 15-5, 15-1 in the championship contest.



The victory gave Nebraska its 17th Big Eight tournament crown in 20 seasons. Colorado won two, while Oklahoma won one to break up Nebraska's impressive streak.

And for the 14th consecutive season, the Huskers qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

The Huskers' tournament strategy is simple, according to senior setter Christy Johnson.

"When you think about it, you start to realize that every play mat-

ters now and every practice matters," said Johnson, an All-American last year. "You realize there is going to be an end soon, so you try to get as good as you can as fast as you can."

This season, the Huskers began their NCAA Tournament journey in hopes of reaching the Final Four in impressive fashion. After receiving a first-round bye as the top seed in the NCAA Central Region, the Huskers made fairly quick work of George Mason 15-2, 15-5, 16-14 in the second round at the NU Coliseum.

The Huskers got a quick jump on the Patriots (21-11), easily taking the first two games, before they were challenged in the final contest. Allison Weston, who led the Huskers with 18 kills in the second-round match, said she figured George Mason would start stronger.

"I thought George Mason would come out with more fire," she said. "From the way we had them scouted, I thought they were good. It surprised me the way they weren't playing aggressively in the first two games. I think it kind of lulled us to



sleep."

The Huskers can't afford to be weary during the Central Regional. The winner of the four-team region, which will be played at the Coliseum, will earn a trip to the Final Four in Amherst, Mass. The Huskers will played Penn State (27-7) in the regional semifinal. The other semifinal game pitted UCLA (22-7) and Ohio State (22-7).

The Huskers have a score to settle with Penn State. Last year, the Huskers entered the regional final riding a 31-match winning streak, only to see it snapped with a four-game loss to the Nittany Lions.

Weston, an All-American during her sophomore and junior seasons, said there is some pressure on the Huskers to make it back to the Final Four. Nebraska last reached the big dance in 1990, and no current member of the Husker squad has ever had an opportunity to play for a national title.

Husker outside hitter Billie Winsett, one of three seniors on the NU team (Weston and Johnson are the others) said not reaching the Final Four would leave her with an empty feeling.

"I would say that empty feeling would last for a very long time

because it's something we've all worked hard for a very long time," she said. "Ever since we came to college, we've wanted to play for a national championship.

"If we don't have that opportunity, we might forget all the good games we had."

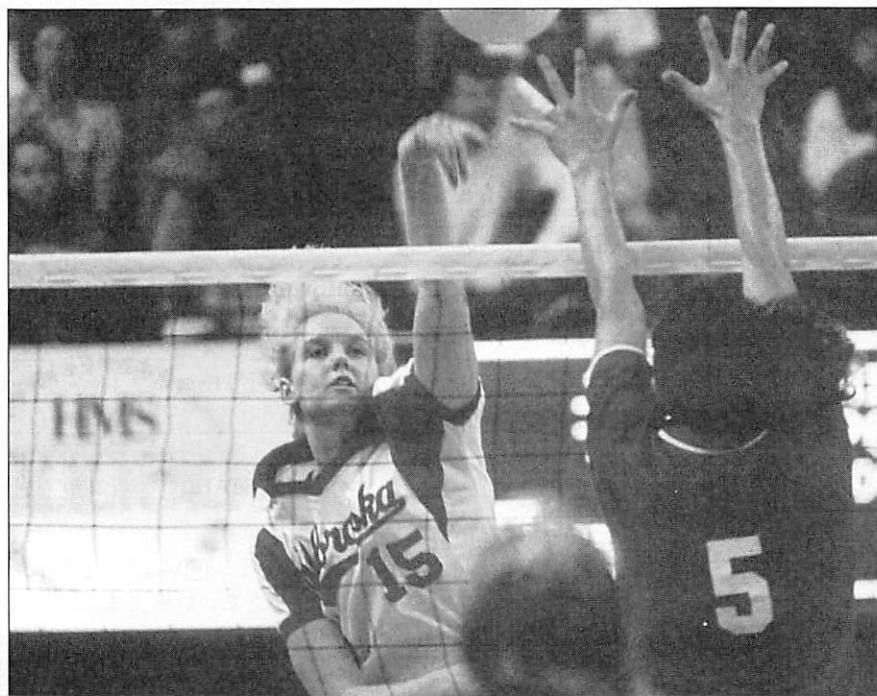
The attitude is different on the Nebraska team this year, Winsett said. That could be enough to put the Huskers over the top during regional play and into the Final Four.

"I think last year we should have been there," she said. "But I think maybe in some people's hearts and minds, they were a little bit hesitant, maybe a little scared to lose instead of just going guts-out for the win. But now we have the attitude that we are going to do everything we can to win. Period."

One of the reasons why the Huskers have been so tough this season is the play of sophomore outside hitter Lisa Reitsma. The bigger the match, the better Reitsma plays.

For example, during the Huskers' loss to then-No. 1 Stanford early in the season, Reitsma recorded 24 kills and had a .408 hitting

Coming up big in important games, sophomore outside hitter Lisa Reitsma has been one of the key components in the Huskers' success this year.



volleyball schedule / record: 28-1

DATE	EVENT/OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
A25-26	State Farm-NACWAA Volleyball Classic#	
A25	vs. Penn State	W, 3-0
A26	vs. Stanford	L, 1-3
Field: Nebraska, Stanford, Penn State, Cal State-Northridge		
S1-2	Pacific Invitational\$	
S1	vs. Santa Clara	W, 3-0
S2	vs. Pacific	W, 3-0
Field: Nebraska, Santa Clara, Pacific, California		
S8-9	FirsTier Challenge#	
S8	vs. Purdue	W, 3-0
S9	vs. Wisconsin	W, 3-0
Field: Nebraska, Kansas State, Wisconsin, Purdue		
S15-16	Wyoming Invitational%	
S15	vs. Gonzaga	W, 3-0
S16	vs. Georgia	W, 3-0
S16	vs. Wyoming	W, 3-0
Field: Nebraska, Gonzaga, Georgia, Wyoming		
S22-23	Arby's Classic#	
S22	vs. Baylor	W, 3-0
S23	vs. George Washington	W, 3-0
Field: Nebraska, Baylor, George Washington, Kansas		
S27	@ Colorado	W, 3-0
S30	Oklahoma	W, 3-0
O4	Kansas	W, 3-0
O7	@ Iowa State	W, 3-0
O11	@ Kansas State	W, 3-0
O14	@ Missouri	W, 3-0
O21	Colorado	W, 3-0
O25	@ Kansas	W, 3-0
O28	Iowa State	W, 3-0
N1	Kansas State	W, 3-0
N4	@ Texas	W, 3-0
N7	Notre Dame	W, 3-0
N10	@ Oklahoma	W, 3-0
N12	Florida	W, 3-2
N15	Missouri	W, 3-0
N24-25	Big Eight Tournament^	
N24	Oklahoma	W, 3-0
N25	Iowa State	W, 3-0
N29-D16	NCAA Tournament (Central Regional)	
N29	NCAA First Round (drew a bye)	
D2	George Mason	W, 3-0
D8	Penn State	5:30 p.m.
D14-16	NCAA Finals*	TBA

#NU Coliseum • \$Stockton, Calif.
%Laramie, Wyo. • ^Omaha, Neb. • *TBA
Home Matches Played at NU Coliseum
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percentage.

Late in the year against No. 2 Florida, the 6-foot-4 native of Sanborn, Iowa, had 37 kills, including seven in the decisive fifth game of a Husker victory.

Reitsma loves playing in a pressure-cooker.

"I like the big matches," she said. "It seems I play my best in them."

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said Reitsma is only one of several reasons why the Huskers are better this season. ■



FACIAL!

**ERICK
STRICKLAND SLAMS
ONE HOME IN THE
HUSKERS' 82-59
WIN OVER
GEORGIA SOUTHERN
IN THE AMERITAS
CLASSIC**

Photo/Bob Berry

POINT OF ATTACK

Nebraska has found an offensive rhythm with freshman point guard Tyronn Lue running the show

Tyronn Lue entered the room quietly and sat down, out of view of Nebraska basketball coach Danny Nee, who was extolling the virtues of the Cornhusker freshman to reporters.

Nee wasn't aware of Lue's presence until he was almost finished. "I wouldn't have said all those nice things if I knew you were sitting there," Nee said.

Lue's silent arrival in the press room at the Bob Devaney Sports Center paralleled his arrival at Nebraska from Raytown High School in metropolitan Kansas City, Mo.

By MIKE BABCOCK

Not a lot of fanfare attended his recruitment. You could say he slipped through the cracks as far as most self-proclaimed recruiting analysts were concerned. Nee did say that, in fact — or words to that effect: "I relate him a little bit to Tommie Frazier. Tyronn has been a pleasant surprise."

Time will show whether or not the comparison was appropriate. But it would appear to hold in the short term. Lue has stepped into the starting lineup and provided the Cornhuskers with something they haven't had since Nee's first season as head coach: an honest to goodness point guard.

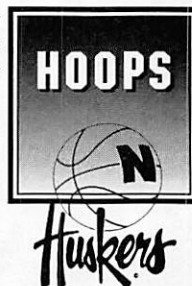
Nee inherited the only point guard he's had at Nebraska. Brian Carr was a carryover from the previous team.

His starting status has come as no surprise to the 6-foot tall Lue. "They told me I could start," he said of the Cornhusker coaches. "I thought they just told me that to get me here."

Circumstances contributed to Lue's recruitment. Nebraska assistant coach Jimmy Williams "locked in on him early," said Nee, who watched Lue for the first time in a summer AAU tournament in California.

"He played terrible," Nee said. "So we saw both ends of it."

Lue grew up in Mexico, Mo., a small town, not far from Columbia, Mo. He developed his skills in a park there, playing three times a day during the summer, he said. He moved from Mexico before his



sophomore year at Raytown High School, where he started for three years.

He played on an AAU team that included Arkansas freshman Derek Hood and St. Louis University's Jarnall Walker during the summer before his senior year at Raytown. The team, which was sponsored by Children's Mercy Hospital, played all over the country, according to Lue. The experience enabled him to evaluate his skills against top competition. He held his own.

Lue "breaks down defenses," Nee said after Nebraska opened the season by winning the Big Island Invitational in Hilo, Hawaii. Lue also scored 52 points in three games, including a Cornhusker freshman-record 30 during a 114-106 overtime victory against Oregon in the semifinal round.

"He scored them (the 30) within the offense," Nee said.

Lue's performance in Hawaii was such that he should have been included on the all-tournament team, along with MVP Jaron Boone and Erick Strickland, according to Nee.

Lue is extremely quick. He made three steals in an 82-59 victory against Georgia Southern in the first game of the Ameritas Classic, as the Cornhuskers forced 27 turnovers. And he can jump. Late in the first half of the Georgia Southern game, he took a pass from Bernard Garner and, with only one step, slam-dunked the ball for two of his seven points.

Lue's first concern, however, is making those around him better. That's a point guard's role. And he is accomplishing that. "Tyronn is really making it a lot easier for us," said Strickland.

And vice versa. Lue's successful transition from high school to college has been facilitated by Strickland and Boone. "Those two 'aces' make it easier," Nee said.

Lue said most schools lost interest in him after he failed to achieve the NCAA's minimum standardized test score for freshman eligibility on his first try. "Nebraska stuck with me and said they would take me as a Prop 48 if I didn't pass the test. I didn't pass the first time, and a lot of schools dropped off. Then I passed the test, and everybody started to come back."

Lue wavered a little, after making an oral commitment to Nebraska, Memphis made a late recruiting pitch and almost persuaded him to

head east. "I was real close to going to Memphis," he said. "But my uncle talked to me and told me I shouldn't do that. He told me I shouldn't back out on a commitment. I'm glad I didn't."

While Lue talked to reporters after a practice before the Ameritas Classic, outside of the training room, senior teammate Terrance Badgett passed by on his way to the locker room.

"See you later, 'Fresh Fish,'" Badgett said, with his omnipresent smile.

The veteran players "accepted me right away," Lue said.

In part, that's because he displays the maturity of someone older. Lue handled his first encounter with reporters (referred to in the opening paragraph) with the confidence that characterizes his on-court demeanor. At least once, he asked a reporter to repeat a question he hadn't understood.

"Excuse me, could you ask that again?" he said.

He also apologized for being late to the interview session. "I had to finish a paper," Lue explained.

That's why he sat in the background and listened to the good things Nee said about him. Lue heard the comparison to Frazier.

"It made me feel pretty good," he said. "That's a great compliment."

And based on initial impressions, potentially appropriate. ■

men's hoops 1995-96 schedule: 6-0

DATE	EVENT/OPPONENT	TIME/RESULT
N24-26	Big Island Invitational*	
N24	vs. Toledo	W, 72-59
N25	vs. Oregon	W, 114-106
N26	vs. Minnesota	W, 96-85
Field:	Nebraska, Utah State, Minnesota, Valparaiso, Oregon, Hawaii, Toledo, Wichita St.	
D1-2	Ameritas Classic\$	
D1	vs. Georgia Southern	W, 82-59
D2	vs. Grambling State	W, 96-80
Field:	Nebraska, Georgia Southern, Pepperdine, Grambling State	
D6	@Creighton	W, 88-67
D9	@Minnesota	6:00 p.m.
D16	Northern Iowa	7:05 p.m.
D18	NE Illinois	7:05 p.m.
D21	Delaware State	7:05 p.m.
D29-30	Far West Classic#	
D29	vs. Oregon	8:30 p.m.
D30	Consolation	8:30 p.m.
D30	Championship	10:45 p.m.
Field:	Nebraska, Oregon, Oregon State, Mississippi State	
J3	Texas	7:05 p.m.
J6	Long Beach State	1:05 p.m.
J10	Colorado	7:05 p.m.
J13	@Oklahoma	12:45 p.m.
J17	Missouri-Kansas City	7:05 p.m.
J20	@Oklahoma State	12:45 p.m.
J24	Missouri	7:05 p.m.
J28	Kansas	2:00 p.m.
J31	@Kansas State	7:05 p.m.
F3	Iowa State	12:45 p.m.
F7	@Missouri	7:05 p.m.
F10	@Iowa State	12:45 p.m.
F17	Oklahoma State	8:05 p.m.
F19	@Kansas	8:30 p.m.
F25	Oklahoma	Noon
F28	@Colorado	8:00 p.m.
M3	Kansas State	1:05 p.m.
M8-10	Big Eight Tournament^	TBA
M8	Quarter Finals	
M9	Semifinals	
M10	Finals	

* Exhibition Game • & Hilo, Hawaii
\$ Lincoln, Neb. • # Portland, Ore. • ^ Kansas City
Home Matches Played at Bob Devaney Sports Center
All times are local at the site of the game

LUE BRINGS "COOKIE" TO CAMPUS

Not only has he had an immediate impact on the court, Tyronn Lue has helped the Cornhuskers off the court with an assist in recruiting Segado "Cookie" Belcher, a 6-foot-3, 190-pound guard from Mexico, Mo. Belcher signed a letter of intent with Nebraska during the NCAA's November signing period.

Belcher, who earned all-state recognition in football, basketball and baseball as a high school junior, is a distant cousin of Lue. "I played a big part (in Belcher's recruitment)," Lue said.

"We really think Cookie is the perfect fit for us. He's the type of player we wanted," Cornhusker Coach Danny Nee said. "We're losing a lot of guards (next season)."

Nebraska has one scholarship remaining to fill for next season. ■



Starting Early

A trio of high school players, including All-American tailback DeAngelo Evans, have orally committed to Nebraska

By JAMES HALE

Many of college football observers predicted Nebraska would fall off in the 1990s. Critics said reduced scholarship numbers — 25 or fewer a year and 85 total per roster — and NU's relatively remote locale were eventually going to catch up with the Huskers' recruiting efforts.

In addition, shortened recruit evaluation periods were expected to take some of the air out of Nebraska's machine. According to this theory, the Huskers would decline because they would not have time to establish contacts necessary for national recruiting, and there weren't enough Nebraska players to pick up the slack.

So much for theories.

With the first half of 1990s now history, things haven't changed a bit in Lincoln.

The Huskers are still one of college football's major powers and one of the top national recruiting

DeAngelo Evans, a running back from Wichita (Kan.) Collegiate, was the first player to orally commit to Nebraska.

QUICK TALKERS

As the Feb. 7, 1996, national signing day approaches, some high school athletes have already committed to their college choice. Three players have indicated that they will play for Nebraska next fall.

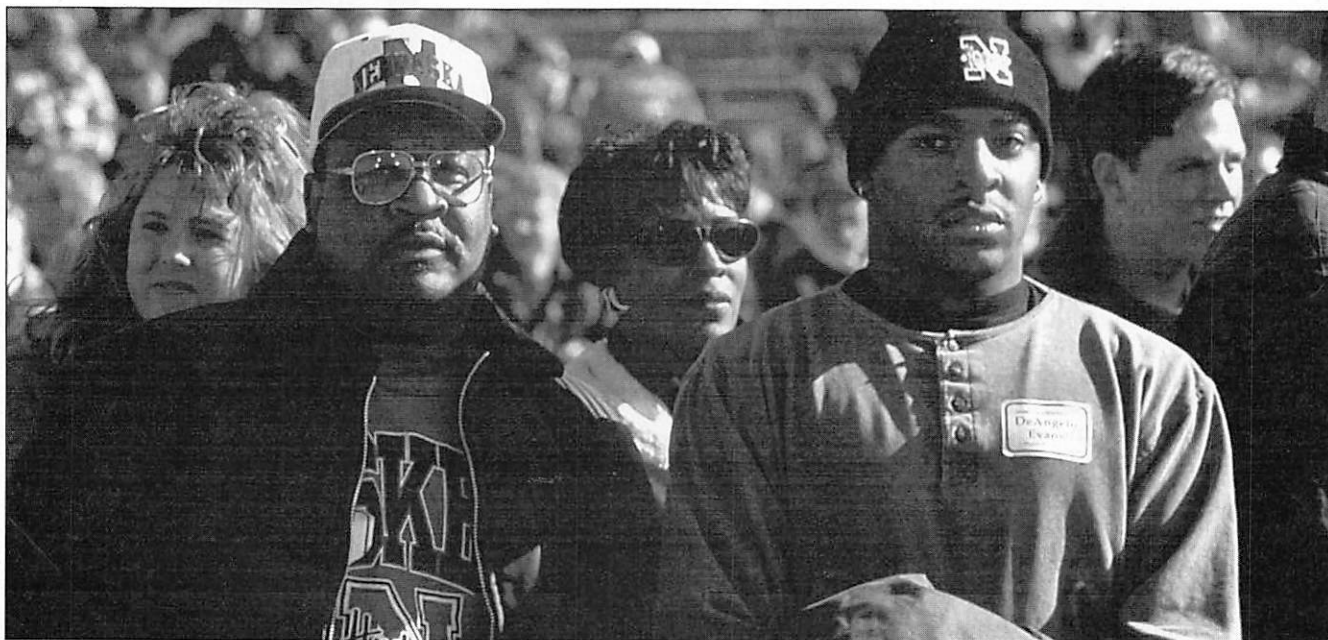
Player	Ht.	Wt.	40	Notes
DeAngelo Evans	5-9	208	4.4	One of nation's most recruited running backs; committed to Notre Dame first, but changed his mind and committed to Nebraska
Russ Hochstein	6-4	250	5.0	Offensive lineman from Hartington Central Catholic; has good potential
Willie Miller	6-0	230	4.6	Fullback from Bellvue West; typical NU fullback, he's a hard hitter with good speed

schools. Nebraska finds players in California, Florida, Texas and New Jersey. Most of the top Nebraska high school players (90 percent) play their college ball with the Huskers rather than travel out of state to play Division I-A football.

A year ago Nebraska had a truly incredible recruiting year, filling its

scholarship limits by Christmas. They won't have 20 to 25 scholarship commitments this year by the holidays, but have gotten off to a good start.

Nebraska has three oral commitments, headlined by the country's top running back prospect, DeAngelo Evans (5-foot-9, 208



pounds, 4.4 40-yard dash) of Wichita (Kan.) Collegiate. He switched to Nebraska after an early commitment to Notre Dame.

"When I took an early unofficial visit to Notre Dame, I got caught up in their tradition and made a hasty decision," Evans said. "My dad really didn't like that commitment and wanted me to look hard at Nebraska.

"I realized that I had made a mistake. I really am a Midwest guy at heart, and Nebraska has the top program in the area. I don't see the program slowing down at all, and their tradition at running back is incredible. I know they will have other great running backs, but competition has never bothered me. Coach (Tom) Osborne always seems to find a way to get all his running backs carries, anyway."

Evans was chasing national records for touchdowns and rushing yardage when an ankle injury shut down his season. But he will be full strength by the time his first college season begins. Despite the injury, Evans finished his high school career with 8,436 yards and 129 touchdowns.

Willie Miller (6-0, 230, 4.6) of Bellvue West is a perfect fit as a Cornhusker fullback. Miller, a bruising back with breakaway speed, never thought twice about not being a Husker.

"I have always wanted to play at Nebraska," Miller said. "Nebraska has a winning tradition, and their football teams always play so hard. I have always been a Nebraska fan. It's a thrill to realize that I am actually going to be playing football there. Their fullbacks seem to do well in the pros, and coach Osborne always seems to be expanding the roll of the fullback in his offense."

The Huskers have built a national power by signing offensive linemen such as **Russ Hochstein** (6-4, 245, 5.0) of Hartington Central Catholic. Hochstein committed to the Huskers knowing their reputation for developing offensive linemen is second to none.

"It's a great feeling to think that I am going to play for a program that is known as the best at developing offensive linemen," Hochstein said.

"Every year Nebraska's offensive line is ranked No. 1 in the country, and I just wanted to be a part of that."

Those three players give the Huskers a great start on the '96 recruiting class. And it could get even better, as the Huskers could wind up with one of the top five recruiting class nationally.

Three of the nation's top quarterbacks plan to visit Lincoln.

Ortega Jenkins (6-3, 210, 4.6) of Long Beach (Calif.) **Jordan, Odell James** (6-3, 195, 4.5) of Aldine (Texas) **MacArthur** and **Tee Martin** (6-3, 215, 4.6) of Mobile (Ala.) **Williamson** are at the top of the run/pass quarterback charts.

Jenkins said he will visit Notre Dame, Nebraska, UCLA, Arizona State and UCLA. Williams visited Nebraska on Dec. 8, and is considering Auburn, Alabama, Oklahoma State and Florida State. James said Baylor, Florida State and Nebraska are at the top of his list.

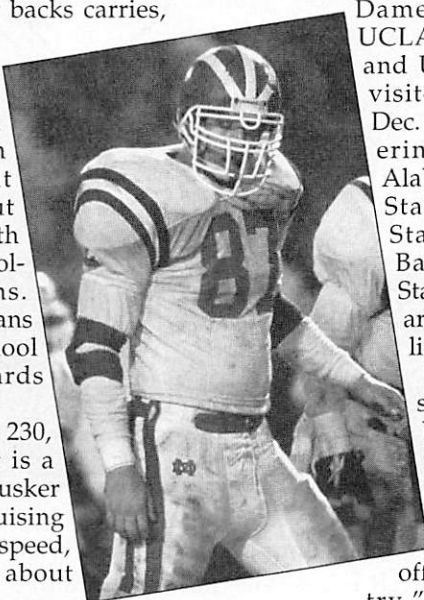
"Nebraska has such an incredible program, and their offense fits my abilities probably better than any offense in the country," James said. "They have kept the option in their offense but seem to be opening up the offense a little bit more to take advantage of a quar-

terback's passing ability."

James has yet to speak to a college recruiter, instead concentrating on his senior season. He won't set any visits until after the playoffs.

The Huskers also have scheduled visits with three of Oklahoma's best players. Defensive end **Ryan Allen** (6-4, 248, 4.7) of Enid, wide receiver **Mike Woods** (6-0, 170, 4.4) of Del City and defensive tackle **Jeremy Wilson** (6-3, 260, 4.9) of Jones all say they will make the trek to Lincoln in December.

Defensive linemen **Jessie Warren** (6-6, 260, 4.8) of Dallas Carter and **Brad Williams** (6-5, 260, 4.8) of Santa Ana (Calif.) **Mater Dei** also plan to visit Nebraska. Both are preseason All-Americans. ■



Defensive end Brad Williams from Santa Ana (Calif.) Mater Dei will visit Nebraska before making his decision.

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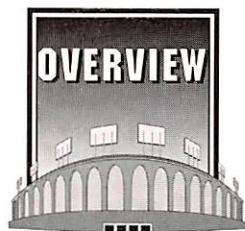
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Day Of The Defense

Nebraska proved against the Sooners that it has the defensive punch to complement its explosive offense.

By MIKE BABCOCK

With 8:36 remaining in the first quarter of Nebraska's 37-0 victory over Oklahoma, Tom Osborne wanted to hug Jamel Williams. Osborne also wanted to "wring his neck."

He was a little ambivalent, you might say. Williams did say that, in fact. "Coach wasn't happy," he said with a smile.

Then again, Osborne was happy, according to Williams. "He seemed kind of both," the junior strong-side linebacker said.

The basis for Osborne's conflicting emotions was an interception that Williams returned 36 yards for the first touchdown in the Cornhuskers' 11th consecutive victory this season. That's why he wanted to hug Williams.

However, as Williams approached the end zone, his stride became a strut. Hence, Osborne's "wring his neck" hyperbole.

"These guys get excited," Osborne said.

Even so, players can be penalized for such behavior, if the officials were to consider it excessive celebration or taunting.

Williams' actions came close. Osborne said that he told the official who nearly flagged Williams, "I wouldn't have blamed you if you had."

The bottom line is, the official didn't toss a flag, and Williams was too happy about the victory to get too concerned about what might have been. Besides, "I didn't think I did anything that bad to get penalized. Coaches talk to us all the time, 'Don't get penalties.' I kept my part of the bargain," he said.

No harm, no foul. "You really don't think about what you're doing," Williams said.

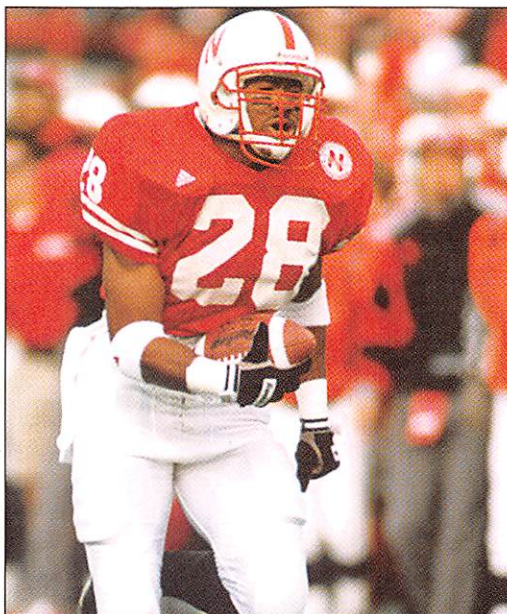
Williams was reacting rather than thinking when he intercepted the Eric Moore pass. Two Oklahoma receivers "split, and I was standing right in the hole," said Williams. "I think he (Moore) just threw it. You don't want to miss it," Williams said. And, of course, he didn't.

Williams' touchdown was the first of two the defense contributed to the Oklahoma victory. Senior free safety Tony Veland picked up a fumble and returned it 57 yards during the third quarter.

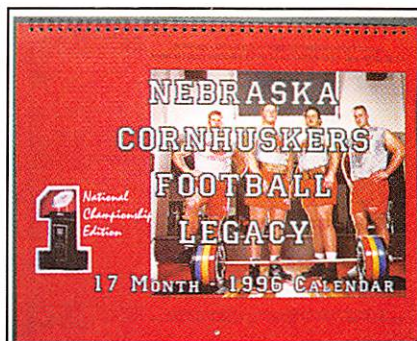
Outside linebacker Jared Tomich caused the fumble, knocking the ball from the grasp of Sooner running back James Allen.

"I came from behind and punched it out," Tomich said. "Whenever you can see brown, you punch the ball."

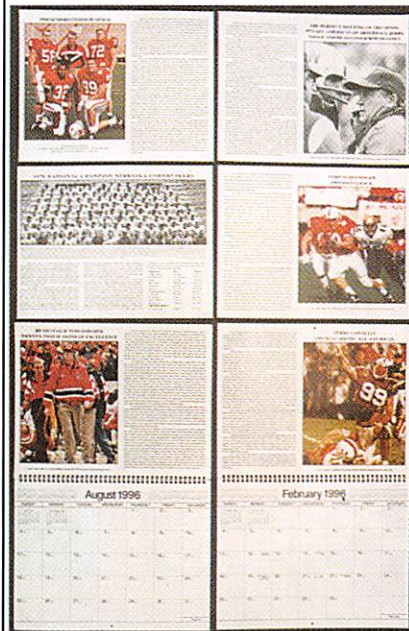
After being punched free, the ball bounced to Veland. "It pretty much came right to me," said Veland, who began his Cornhusker career as a quarterback. "I saw nothing but day-



Jamel Williams provided Nebraska with one of two defensive touchdowns.



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light. It's luck. But I got the six points. That's what counts."

What counts are results, not the process or the perception. That's the point Williams wanted to make about Nebraska's defensive performance, not only against Oklahoma but throughout the season.

"Everybody thinks we can't cover the pass, but we've done it all year," he said. "We get no respect for our pass defense. Maybe now, they'll finally give it to us."

The Cornhuskers have completed a third consecutive undefeated regular season by gaining yards and scoring points at a school-record pace.

But as last season proved, national championships are won with defense, as well. "Like they say, defense wins championships," Williams said.

Nebraska's defense has improved steadily throughout the season, according to Tomich, one of four Cornhusker defenders chosen to the Associated Press All-Big Eight first team.

The others were senior tackle Christian Peter, senior cornerback Tyrone Williams and junior line-backer Terrell Farley.

"Every game we played, we got a little better and cut down on the mistakes," Tomich said.

It was appropriate then that Peter, a defensive co-captain, presented the Big Eight championship trophy to Osborne during the celebration in the locker room following the game.

Osborne was appreciative, but not overly emotional, according to Veland. "You know how coach Osborne is," he said.

Osborne said after the game that the Cornhuskers were happy with the conference title, which they have won outright the last four seasons after sharing it with Colorado in 1991.

"They're certainly not real quiet down there (in the locker room)," he said. "But it's like something they expected to do."

That tempered the post-Oklahoma celebration a little, as did the fact that there is still a Tostitos Fiesta Bowl game to win if the Cornhuskers are to repeat as national champions.

Nebraska has an offense capable of accomplishing such a feat. And a defense.

"The last three years, our defense has built momentum," Osborne said.

The evidence was unmistakable during the Oklahoma game. ■